

OSt. James Pastoral Council Minutes

January 19, 2026

Members Present: Fr. John Hemsing, Scott Granicki, Hayde Becker, Dennis Lentz, Dan Sawyer, Ben Filzen, Laurie Holmes, Rick Schaefer, Frank Habib, George Fox, Cheryl Romauld

Not present: Jim Salmo

Topic	Follow-up
<p>Call to Order 5:59 PM STJ Great Room Laurie offered the opening prayer and reflection</p>	
<p>Approval of the October minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the November meeting were distributed in advance. Rick made a motion to approve the minutes; Frank seconded the motion. With all in favor the minutes were approved. 	
<p>Commission Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Concerns – Dan – Collections for The Giving Tree were down slightly from last year. They are considering removing the Hebron House, as they have been receiving donations from many other sources. Anti-Human Trafficking soap sales will be April 18/19. AHT will be holding a half-day retreat on 3/28. Recent sex trafficking laws that were passed include - Act 13 directs the DOJ award annual grants to the child advocacy centers; Act 34 provides a class one penalty for representations and pictures of nudity; Act 48 defines sextortion and includes a class one penalty if found guilty; Act 56 provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison, for child sex trafficking convictions and a 10 year minimum for human trafficking convictions. AHT attended the “Smoke on the Water” event weekend on Okauchee Lake. Another large event is coming up in July. Prayer and Worship – Dennis – No meeting was held. We continue to look for people to step forward as greeters, ushers, lectors, acolytes and communion ministers. The next meeting is Saturday 1/31. Stewardship – Hayde – First asked if minutes from all committees are archived by the parish? Father is in favor of this if each ministry submits their minutes, they can be held in the office. This year we collected \$4,200 in the Life’s Connections baby bottles (last year was \$2,100). The schedule for fellowship is February – Human Concerns, March – the adoration committee. Registration weekend is March 7/8. and we need volunteers from the Parish Council. Ministry appreciation dates are tentatively April 27/28. It was noted that there were some recent activities omitted from the bulletin, and discussion ended in hopes that Father would announce events at each mass, giving them more ‘weight’. Adding a third bulletin page was reviewed with the printer but identified as not possible. Father will find out why and report back. Christian Formation – Ben – Ben asked why the CF offices may be moved. Fr. indicated that plans for relocating staff offices (office remodeling) are not definitive. The basis of current studies is to identify options which would provide for the proximity of all parish staff in one location to help facilitate better communication. First Communion parent meeting was held a week 	<p>E-mail Hayde if you can help man the registration table at any mass, 3/7 – 3/8</p>

<p>ago. Second grade had their First Reconciliation in November. This year there is a Confirmation retreat consisting of 4 hours on Friday and 8 hours on Saturday. It will be held at Menomonee Park. We have six participants in RCIA. S.O.A.L. went great in November and December and will be repeated starting March 20th. Emmaus 90 bible study group just started and runs until Easter. CF has 14 students signed up for the July mission trip to Waterloo, IA. Fundraising for the mission trip includes a chili-cook-off Saturday, February 21st. One thought is to have a friendly competition among each Pastoral Council ministry by each submitting a chili. VBS is the first week of August with a theme of Rainforest Falls Exploring the Nature of God. CF will try recruiting more members at the Family Faith Day the second weekend in March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance – Rick/Frank – Met January 13th. 1650 Stewardship letters were sent out and to date about 400 returned. In December we received a quarterly distribution of \$21,909 from the Love One Another campaign. We are in year three of five and to date have received \$454,819 of \$711,000 pledged. We have four quotes for landscaping services with the low quote at \$11,900 year. MetroSound has quoted us \$10,000 to install three electronic message boards in church. We have a \$5K donation and monies from the LOA campaign are earmarked for this project. We have roof leakage which is covered under an annual contract with Langer Roofing at a cost of \$5K per year. This is for patchwork only and a new roof will be needed in the next 5 years. Christmas bonuses were paid to all staff. Mike Gast will be out for medical care, and we will again cover his absence with volunteers. We are planning for a 3% increase in salaries for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. We are in process with performance reviews. Our finance administrative assistant resigned. Frank was asked to look at streamlining all the committee meetings which occur in the parish. Finance council has agreed to the proposal Frank put forth. Pastoral council's proposal is – Every other month, January thru November, excluding June July and August. Father also suggested that a special PC meeting may be needed in April based on the Finance councils budget approval. After discussion all members approved the revised schedule. The day of the month remains the first Monday after the second Tuesday. ● Knights of Columbus - Scott – the Knights will serve breakfast at the confirmation retreat and during March for St Patrick's day. 	<p>Each ministry to respond to Ben regarding submitting a chili for the event.</p> <p>New PC schedule is January, March, April, May, September, November</p>
<p>Pastor's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Father expressed his gratitude for all who ministered for the many Christmas masses. ● Catholic Stewardship Appeal – Mike Loth will lead the campaign and speak at each mass the weekend of February 7/8. The video from the archdiocese will be played in the narthex. ● Father shared that there is a scam going around that is using his name/position in e-mails to solicit funds. Do not respond to any of these, if unsure contact the office or Father directly. ● Parish Website - Stewardship Proposal - Frank shared the response the Finance Council is making to a proposal submitted by the Stewardship committee requesting various approaches to supporting the parish website to advance Stewardship. They included a full-time hire, part-time-hire or outsourced. Though there are no funds for 2025-2026, Finance will be requesting more information from Stewardship – I.e. What are surrounding parishes doing? What does the archdiocese recommend? What are 	

