

ST. JOSEPH PASTORAL COUNCIL
DECEMBER 12, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Ex. Off. Rev. Jeffrey Hennes
2025 Mike Daniels
2025 Tim Higgins
2025 John Lutz
2025 Ellen Miskowski
2026 Jean Brazzale
2026 Sally Dehlinger
2026 Kris Hansen
2026 Luke Wachowiak

Absent/Excused Members:

- I. Meeting opened with prayer.
- II. Minutes approved over email.
- III. Featured Discussion: Christmas Basket.
 - A. Ellen & Kris have shopped for the gifts for the children and will be buying the groceries and making the delivery next week.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Diocesan Annual Appeal
 1. Father shared the most recent numbers and that we have a \$10,000 match donation.
 2. If we reach the matching funds, we would not only meet our goal, but exceed it. The matching funds will be announced at Mass this weekend.
 - B. Building Projects
 1. The steps are completed, with some minor finishing this spring.
 2. The railing is manufactured; we are just waiting for a suitable temperature to install them. The only remaining cost that needs to be dispersed is for the railings.
 3. The boiler system has a minor issue, but we are getting it repaired.
 4. The next project we are looking at is the doors in the family center. This would include the side entry doors and the back entry to the kitchen/stairway. They would be replaced with fiberglass doors, which should assist with the expansion issues in warm weather. The estimated cost is around \$20,000. We would also install push bars for safety reasons. All present were in favor of moving forward with the project.
 5. Use of Freezer space
 - a) All in attendance felt that we could proceed with getting rid of the glass door freezer and looking into replacing the seal of the chest freezer.
 - b) We will keep the upstairs freezer running with the various groups sharing the space and keeping their area clean and organized.
 6. Conveyor Belt on Stairway
 - a) It was asked if the belt was needed or if it would be better to remove it to have better space for carrying items and accessing the handrails. All in attendance agreed we no longer needed the belt.
 - b) Buildings and Grounds will be tasked with the best way to remove the belt.
 7. Handrails to Altar
 - a) There has been discussion about installing a handrail to the Sanctuary. This has been discussed in the past but has not been installed.
 - (1) Sacred Worship has recommended to Parish Council that we look into railings in the Sanctuary.
 - b) The following possible options were offered:
 - (1) Leave as is, use the handrails and steps that enter through the Sacristy.
 - (2) Install a handrail that is solid and pleasing to the space.
 - (3) Install two and balance the space.
 - (4) Look into redesigning the sanctuary footprint to include handrails in the design. Suggestions included making the angles more broad and rounded.

- c) The discussion was that we should look into option 4. The council agreed to forward to Building and Grounds for recommendations and estimates with continued input from Sacred Worship, then to be returned to Pastoral Council with final recommendations.

C. New Business

1. Mass Counts

- a) Our numbers are returning to pre-covid numbers.
- b) The October Mass counts will be shared through email

2. Diocesan Parish Review

- a) The three-year review was completed in March. It was noted that it had been over three years, as St. Joseph was skipped on the last rotation.
- b) It was noted that there were irregularities, but nothing that we weren't expecting.
- c) Finance Council reviewed the records, and there are no concerns of misappropriation.
- d) The review was positive in recognizing that we have been in the process of correcting procedures.

3. Financial Review

- a) A request was made to receive an Annual Report from the Finance Council, it was pointed out that it was shared in November. Some members did not see the report. It will be emailed to all following the meeting.

4. Pilgrimage

- a) St. Joseph & St. Stephen parishes will be hosting a pilgrimage to Rome in October to celebrate the Jubilee Year, which begins with the opening of the Holy Doors.

(1) There is no cost to the parish; information will be shared in the upcoming bulletin.

D. Christmas Gift to Parish

1. Father shared this year's Christmas gift, an ornament that celebrates Hope during this Jubilee year.

V. Committee Reports

A. Education - Father Hennes

1. All is going well at Pacelli. There is discussion about adding another 4K in the St. Stephen building.
2. Religious Ed is going well. The St. Nicholas night was well attended, considering the weather.
3. Middle school events are gaining participation, but High School events are petite; we will continue to look at ways to engage the students.
4. We are taking students to a Steubenville conference in July
5. The Youth Rally in March will feature Bishop Battersby.

B. Parish Family Life Committee - Tim Higgins

1. There was a social in November, but they typically do not have one in November.
2. They will host the Meal of Hope in December
3. Next meeting will be in January
4. Beginning to plan the Eggstravaganza.

C. Buildings & Grounds - John

1. The steps are complete with minor finishing to be done; Metal Crafters are in the process of completing the railings.
2. The steps will not be available for use until the railings are installed due to code.
3. The new Nativity Scene will be installed in early December. Work will be completed by the Building and Grounds committee.

D. Call to Justice - Sally

1. The Call to Justice Committee thanks all who help with the meals!
2. The Call to Justice Committee's main activity in recent months has been the monthly meal (Meal of Hope) offered on the third Monday of each month. Various groups kindly volunteered to prepare a warm meal. A pantry with take-away items such as fresh fruit and vegetables, canned goods, and toiletries also is available at each meal for guests. The pantry is funded by St. Joseph Parish and a grant from PartnersHP (the group that sponsors Empty Bowls) and a grant from the Stevens Point Coop. Guests comment that the pantry also is very helpful for them and we have seen an increasing need for the pantry's goods in recent months with additional unsheltered guests attending the meals.
3. Here is a brief summary of the past few months.
4. July 15 - Troop 297, Mike Daniels and nearly the entire troop and leaders (12 scouts and 6 adult leaders) were there to help with meal preparations and setup/cleanup. Tari Wallner also provided

some pantry items from a local group that she is associated with. There were 30 guests and 23 carryouts.

E. Sacred Worship - Kris

1. Training for ministers was held in November and was well attended.
2. Mass Counts discussed earlier.
3. Planning for the Jubilee Year, purchased a banner and will be signing a special song
4. The group made their recommendations regarding the railing to the Sanctuary.
5. They are preparing for the Kids' Noel Mass.

F. St. Anne's - Ellen

1. A meeting was held recently.
2. The Cookie Walk was a success.
3. They are taking gifts to homebound
4. We will be hosting the Meal of Hope in January.
5. Meetings will not be held until March

G. Holy Name - Mike

1. Pork Dinner will be in October and Mike's last year as chairperson. If you know someone who wants to take it over, he is willing to share his knowledge.
2. Helped support a family in November for the holidays
3. Hosting the Meal of Hope in February.

VI. Next Meeting: January 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph—EDIT 1/10/2025: moved to 7:30pm

VII. Meeting ended with prayer at 7 p.m., followed by a Christmas Social.