

St. John's Parish Council Minutes from Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Attendance: Father Sadhanala, Jean DeRuyter, Nancy Laistner, Marie Vitale, Deacon Alex DeLucenay, Steve Kastner, Carrie McDowell, Anne Carr, Sarah Nieves, Grace Bailey, John Nespeca

Meeting Start: The meeting began at 6:30PM with an opening prayer by Father Sadhanala.

Approval/Revision of November Minutes: A motion was made to approve the November meeting minutes at the Christmas dinner in December.

Pastor's Report

- **CMA** – St. John's exceeded its goal of \$95K, raising \$105,390 (110% of goal). There were 342 donors this year (compared to 335 last year). Father noted that an additional 14 donors would have secured a \$1,000 incentive from the Diocese. All funds raised above goal will remain with the parish. Father Sadhanala once again thanks all donors for their generosity.
- **Projects** – The church flooring project was completed this month at a cost of \$21K (NY Flooring and Interior). Father expressed appreciation for all volunteers who assisted with the project.
- **Security** – CCTV cameras are approximately 75% installed across campus. No further action will be taken at this time regarding locking doors.
- **Lent**
 - Stations of the Cross will continue, with Parish Council members attending and leading readings this Friday.
 - The Lenten Retreat, "Interwoven Life," will take place March 8–10 and will be led by Sister Joan Sobala of the Sisters of St. Joseph, focusing on Jesus, community, and the Universal Church. Parish Council members are asked to attend and greet participants.
 - The Day of Penance is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 from 11AM–1PM and 2PM–4PM.
 - Holy Week will follow last year's schedule, including Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, Holy Thursday (Washing of the Feet – coordinated by Steve), and Good Friday with Living Stations from 2:00–2:30PM followed by the 2:30PM service. The Easter Vigil will include 13 OCIA candidates (4 Baptisms, 4 First Communions, and 5 Confirmations), followed by Easter Sunday

Old Business

- **Bereavement Group** – Gayle Fowler and Gina have begun leading the group and held their first meeting. Plans include creating a flyer, defining the group’s purpose, and establishing a regular schedule (1st Tuesday at 10:30AM and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30PM). Father provided guidelines and expects a follow-up survey. Additional volunteers are needed.
- **Three Year Planning** – Brad, Jean, and Steve developed a parish survey, which the council reviewed in draft form. Parish Council members are asked to submit feedback within one week. The survey will be introduced after Lent, announced at Mass on March 14, and distributed via bulletin, website, and QR code. A second push will occur after Easter. Responses are due by April 14, with results reviewed in June.
- **Christmas Festival** – Overall feedback was positive. The breakfast ran smoothly, though the absence of the Live Nativity was noted.
- **Anniversary Celebration**
 - Father is seeking additional ideas for the 175th celebration.
 - Jasmine has begun organizing a parish directory, with a teaser included in the bulletin. Ministry lists and parishioner participation for photos are needed. Photos may be taken after Mass. An online version will be password protected.
 - Good progress has been made on the parish cookbook project (Anne and Jean) and the project is ongoing.
 - Deacon Alex will oversee development of the 175th anniversary logo.

New Business

- **Baptismal Font** – A meeting is scheduled to finalize plumbing requirements, with the goal of completion by Easter. The system will include a UV filter, and a maintenance schedule will be needed. A blessing ceremony may take place during Easter services.
- **Wine Tasting** – A wine tasting event is planned for April 18 as part of the 175th anniversary celebration. Additional details will be shared in upcoming bulletins.
- **By-Laws** – Parish Council members are asked to review the by-laws.

Open Forum

- **St. Joseph’s Table** – The celebration will follow last year’s potluck format. Father will follow up with Julie regarding coordination with Faith Formation. A future dinner for Faith Formation families was suggested.
- **Letter to Bishop Matano** – A letter will be sent on Thursday, March 19. Jean will coordinate.
- **Installation Mass** – Five tickets are available to the parish. One was offered to Parish Council. Anne will attend the Mass.
- **Polling Site** – The parish gym will serve as a polling site on June 23 and November 3.

- **Youth Group** – Discussion took place regarding continuing the group beyond Confirmation classes.

The meeting concluded at 8:15PM and Father closed the meeting with a prayer.