

Parish Council Minutes

Leadership Team

7/16/25, 6pm

- Present: Dallas Hayes, Joshua Keithley, Karen Stille, Craig Buescher, Fr Matya, Patty Marmie, Lisa Isaacson, Mollie Sundermeier
- Patty explained the journey from experiences to success and where we've come in the last year. The goal of this evening is to shift into getting both St Mary's and St Joseph's Churches on the same page.
- Encouragement that in both parishes, great care needs to be taken to listen to people's concerns and emotions over the change. For many of the specific questions people wonder, the answer is that we don't know yet. Before we raise a dime, we have to have a united community. The coming to a point of health in that is really the priority right now. Each subcommittee needs to have this vision of communion between the Churches in mind.
 - o Explanation of how to do this: Trust leads to healthy conflict > leads to commitment > leads to accountability > leads to results
- Creating clarity, revisiting *the playbook* St Mary's only established last fall (attach)
 - o Why do we exist? To help people develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. This remains true. Agreement that no change is needed.
 - o How do we behave? Approved with no changes
 - o What we do? Change from "we offer the sacraments" to "we offer Sacramental Life"

How will we succeed? Omit "beautify basement space", add "Greenwood" to "Ashland community"

What is most important right now?

 - i. **Unity!** How to do this? There was clarity that parish boundaries will not change, just combine parishes. Emphasis on all of the below that these things are equally for St Mary's and St Joseph's
 1. Cookout at new property
 2. Block party (at St Mary's property but for both parishes)
 3. A service-oriented project or pilgrimage
 4. Combined Adoration
 5. Modify language to include more inclusion
 6. Pursue Greenwood men and women in k of c and altar society
 7. Source acolytes in Greenwood and the Mulberry
 - ii. Engage the youth
 1. Familia events
 2. Totus Tuus
 3. Sky Camp

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4. Steubenville
 5. College kids - mission trips
 6. TEC
 7. Canoe trips
 8. Confirmation Retreat
 - iii. Adult Faith Formation
 1. Alpha in Waverly/Greenwood
 2. Bible Studies
 3. OCIA
- b. Who must do what? Will be tabled for this meeting.
- c. Father proposed the Church of the Nativity after a visit to the Cathedral of Wichita. He emphasized the Bishop chooses the name, and when it begins being used, but suggestions are taken.
- d. Next steps:
 - i. Listening sessions (council members should try to come to both)
everyone else who wants to be heard can come to either
 1. Background presented, questions and comments, survey (perhaps a take home)
 2. Aug 26 @ 6 in GW, Aug 27 @ 6 in Ashland
 - ii. Leadership council meeting
 1. Aug 12 @ 7 at St Mary's basement
 - iii. Soft sell of a new possible Church name



On July 16th, Father Matya, Patty Marmie (External Leadership Consultant), and six parish council members (including two from St. Joseph's) met to re-envision the strategic direction and focus areas for St. Mary's & St. Joseph's, building on the work from last summer. Below is a summary of their shared decisions.

Why do we exist?

To help people develop a **personal relationship** with **Jesus Christ & His Church**.



How do we behave?

- **Welcoming:** This emphasizes creating an inclusive, friendly, and caring environment for all members and visitors, reflecting the church's mission of hospitality and compassion.
- **Stewardship:** This highlights the responsibility of managing the church's resources faithfully and generously, ensuring the church's mission and community support are sustained.
- **Faithful:** This core value would focus on maintaining a deep commitment to faith, spiritual growth, and adherence to the church's teachings, reflecting the importance of faith in the community's life and actions.

What do we do?

We offer Sacramental life, initiate people into liturgical life, teach doctrine, and promote the practice of good works.

How will we succeed?

"Everest" (3-year picture): Engaged, vibrant, "city on a hill" parish, growing, 2-3 focused ministries.

Our strategic anchors:

1. Parishioners
2. Ashland & Greenwood Communities
3. Building

What is most important right now?

Thematic Goals:

UNITY

ENGAGING THE YOUTH

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The parish community seeks to strengthen ties between St. Mary's and St. Joseph's, deepen faith for youth and encourage greater involvement, and, through spiritual growth within families and for adults, build a more vibrant and connected parish rooted in Jesus Christ and our beautiful Catholic faith.

You're invited! To our very first "church chats" listening sessions for the opportunity to casually and openly discuss the future possibilities for our parishes Tuesday, August 26, 7:00PM in St. Joseph Parish Hall and Wednesday, August 27, 6:00PM in St. Mary Church. All people from both parishes are welcome to either or both dates!

