

# St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting

**August 21, 2024**

**Present were:**

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)  
Fr. Joy (Assoc. Pastor)  
Lis Soto (Secretary)

Michael Alexander  
Taylor Schroll  
Marcel LeJeune

Christina Robertson  
Anna Damian

**Absent:**

Matt Rice  
Samantha Shepard

Lorian Dusek  
Donna Hanus

Leanne Southerland

## Meeting Minutes

Fr. Brian called the meeting to order at 6:14pm with a prayer and invitation for each member to share a highlight from their summer.

### **STAFF UPDATES**

Father Brian was busy in July with interviews. He is pleased with all newly hired positions, feeling that most candidates are highly qualified. He shared enthusiasm for the future.

#### **School Staff**

- New Head of School is **Juan Nagore**
- New Elementary Principal is **Jason Hawkins**
- New Athletic Director is **William Patterson**
- New Asst AD and Football Coach is **Mike Forgione**

#### **Parish Staff**

- Fr. **Joy Adimakkeel** arrived as Associate Pastor on July 1st, 2024

- New Director of Operations is **Debbie Haney**
- We have two new youth ministers, **Mary Martha Devane** and **Sam Seago**
- The Faith Formation team now includes five staff members and several part time contract employees.

## **DISCIPLESHIP PROCESSES**

### **MEET JESUS**

- ALPHA began fall session Aug 18th, 2024
- ST Paul's Outreach (SPO) **Jacob Whitmore & Trevor Marquardt**
- Catholic Missionary Disciples (CMD) bringing speaker, **Curtis Martin**, on Nov. 14 to Christ the Good Shepherd (at St. Joseph)
- Men's conference with Dat Nguyen to replace Men's Welcome retreat in spring 2025

### **KNOW JESUS**

- Family Faith Formation registration booths after mass this weekend
- RCIA class for sacraments, 24 already registered
- Apologetics group on Wed nights in Oct & Nov

### **LIVE JESUS**

- Life Groups (Book Studies, Quads)
- "Teams of Our Lady" - Fr Brian is trying to bring this Apostolate to our parish for couples Life Groups
- Supper Club for young married couples

### **SHARE JESUS**

- Parishioner testimonies from National Eucharistic Conference shared at all masses on Aug 10 with invitation to take an adoration hour
- Missionary Discipleship Class Sept 16, 23, 30, & Oct 7
- First Friday Downtown Bryan - Missionaries Prayer Booth

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Fr. Brian mentioned concerns about our old buildings needing major repairs or replacement. A master plan committee is needed to help determine facility needs. Parish doors are scheduled to be refurbished this year.

## **DISCUSSION**

Taylor S. commended Fr. Brian for having testimonials shared at mass. Marcel L suggested that all testimonials should include: "This is how I encountered God..... I invite you to encounter Him too."

Christina R. suggested that we use more social media messaging including videos.

Fr. Brian was approached about increasing security at the masses. The general PC consensus was that more security was not necessary. Christina R. suggested that Fr. Brian ask current or retired peace officers in our parish for their recommendation.

Christina R. requested for Fr. Joy to offer his homilies in written form for parishioners to follow along until we are more used to his way of speaking. His wise and beautiful messages should be heard and understood by all.

Marcel L. requested that ushers show more respect for the mass and make less noise in the back of the church (nave) during masses.

Fr. Brian reported that July mass attendance was low, by 200 per weekend. However, he is confident that attendance will improve as the fall classes begin.

## **Closing Prayer led by Father Brian**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wed. September 18, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Lis Soto