

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting
October 16, 2024

Present were:

Fr. Brian Eilers (Pastor)
Fr. Joy Adimakkeel (Assoc)
Michael Alexander (Pres)
Lis Soto (Secretary)

Marcel LeJeune
Christina Robertson
Anna Damian
Donna Hanus

Lorian Dusek
Matt Rice
Samantha Shepard

Absent:

Leanne Southerland

Taylor Schroll

Meeting Minutes

Fr. Brian called the meeting to order at 6:02pm with a prayer led by Fr. Joy.

DISCUSSION

Father Brian invited Michael A. to facilitate the meeting, expressing his desire to deepen his connection with the parishioners and "know his sheep" more intimately. He posed a key question to the Pastoral Council: *How can we assist Father Brian in getting to know his parishioners better and help them know him*, particularly those on the margins who may be less engaged or reluctant to share their voices?

Michael A. led a productive brainstorming session, following a prayer by Marcel L. asking for the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment. The council identified seven key ideas and suggestions for Father Brian to focus on:

- **Create Focus Groups**—Engage specific groups (e.g., students, seniors) to better understand their faith needs and perspectives.
- **Post Formation Questions/Questionnaire** – Regularly ask questions such as, *“Did you grow in faith from this recent activity or event? How is your prayer life? What kind of prayer practices do you find most meaningful in your life?”* to encourage reflection and dialogue.
- **Discipleship Pathway Brochure** – Develop a brochure to help parishioners discern where they are in their faith journey along the discipleship diamond.
- **Homily Question of the Week** – Introduce a weekly thought-provoking question to challenge parishioners in their faith journey.

- **Pastoral Council Listening Sessions** – Allow parishioners to share their thoughts and add council members' personal emails and phone numbers to the parish website for easy access.

These initiatives aim to strengthen relationships within the parish, promote engagement, and provide Father Brian with meaningful ways to connect with the community.

Father Brian expressed that the Discipleship Pathway is now well-developed, with programs available at each stage. The focus moving forward will be on encouraging parishioners to engage and progress along the pathway actively.

Donna H. highlighted the importance of clear communication from the pulpit, stressing the need to reassure the parish that *“we are listening.”* She suggested adding a call to action, such as: *“If you want to be heard, the next step is…”* to encourage participation and provide a clear direction for involvement.

PARISH UPDATES

Father Brian reported on the many programs going on at our parish, to help elevate faith in our parishioners, including attendance numbers:

Ministry/Formation	Attendance
Mass Attendance Average	1500 (1400-1700)
Christ the Good Shepherd Mass	300-400 attendees
Early Learning Center Enrollment	47 students
St. Joseph School Enrollment	323 students
Family Faith Formation (RE)	180 registered students
High School Youth Group	30 students
Middle School Youth Group	30 students
5th-6th grade group	60 students
Fall 2024 Alpha	30

Foundations	Off for fall
Apologetics Class	35-50 attending
OCIA (RCIA)	40-60 attending
Teams Of Our Lady Interest	15 attended; some reps from a group
Sacramental Preparation Classes	45 participants
4 Bible Studies	About 90 participants

OTHER BUSINESS

- Liturgical Catechesis has been added to masses, YouTube and bulletins.
- The refurbishment of the outer doors has begun at the church.
- Annual Catholic Services Appeal begins this weekend, Oct. 19th
- Pictorial Directory (every 5 years) sign-ups begin in November.
- Speakers in the main church are being assessed. Some may be replaced.

Closing Prayer led by Father Brian

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

The next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Lis Soto