

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting February 19, 2025

Members in Attendance

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

Anna Damian
Lorian Dusek
Donna Hanus
Matt Rice

Christina Robertson
Samantha Shepard
Taylor Schroll
Leanne Southerland

Members Absent

None

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm with members offering their individual prayers.

Reflections on Pastoral Council Listening Conversations

Desired Outcome: Provide feedback to Fr. Brian and the council about the experiences of our parishioners and guests at St. Joseph. Share key insights: good news, challenges, and movements of the Holy Spirit. Share parish experiences with the priest and understand parish dynamics.

- Christmas tradition: a non-Catholic family attends Christmas Eve mass annually (for the last 10-15 years!) because of the Christmas music. They stated it's a tradition.
- A young girl from St. Joseph's School shared her excitement about mass, evangelizing through her enthusiasm and joy.
- A parish council member repeatedly invited a friend to the Healing Mass; the friend finally accepted the invitation and spoke about the Holy Spirit's work.
- The Women's bible study group is hosting a retreat for leaders in January, focusing on deeper encounters and community building. They expressed a desire to learn how to pray over people.

Refining our Listening

Desired Outcome: Improve our pastoral listening approach

- Listening assignment is intended to engage parishioners in conversations before and after Mass.
- Members encouraged deeper questions and meaningful interactions to help parishioners feel more involved and able to find community, foster belonging.

Parish Updates

Goal: Ensure the council is informed to listen effectively.

Father Brian reported the following:

- Jubilee activities include giving a Diocese of Austin book to those who visit the 11 parishes and university centers between December 20, 2024 and January 6, 2026.
- Increased offering campaign begins next weekend with a focus on financial participation
- Early learning center enrollment has increased and facilities have been improved.
- Within St. Joseph's School, there have been special masses and events, like the Spirit of St. Joseph fundraiser
- Various adult faith formation programs are ongoing, such as RCIA, Walking with Purpose, and life groups.
- There are youth programs for children and teens, such as liturgical catechesis and confirmation classes
- Upcoming events: Ash Wednesday with multiple services planned and promotional flyers

Nominations Committee

Goal: Progress toward 12 members by March 19th

Discussion among the group about seeking a council with members who are representative of the congregation's demographics. The members suggested to Fr. Brian that a short paragraph be added to the bulletin with the call for nominations. Fr. Brian will provide the pastoral council email to the secretary so that nominations can be received.

Statues Committee

Goal: Gather feedback to propose final statutes by March 19.

Draft statues were posted; council members were asked to review and provide feedback.

Ministry Leader Summit

Goal: The council will know the purpose of the event and their role.

The ministry leader summit is scheduled for March 29th. An invitation will be emailed to all ministry leaders and pastoral council members.

Politics from the Pulpit

Goal: Fr. Brian hears Council opinions

The council members discussed handling politically sensitive topics during Mass and recommended that emphasis should remain on Gospel teachings rather than political messaging.

Closing Prayer led by Father Joy

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

The next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Christina Robertson