

St Joseph Catholic Church

Minutes of the Pastoral Council Meeting March 19, 2025

Members in Attendance

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

Anna Damian
Donna Hanus
Matt Rice
Christina Robertson

Samantha Shepard
Taylor Schroll
Leanne Southerland

Members Absent

Lorian Dusek

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm with an opening prayer.

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.

- Parishioners describe the church as “feels like home.”
- Others would like to see more community within St. Joseph’s Church, specifically one-on-one relationships with other couples, like sharing dinner or a meal
- There are 20+ women signed up for the women’s retreat, plus another 9 staff members
- It’s believed that there are new people attending the 11 am mass
- One frustration was expressed regarding the changes at the school (conflicts between parents and staff)

Refining our Listening

Desired Outcome: Improve our pastoral listening approach

Discussion centered around the next stages of pastoral listening. Several suggestions were made, including an information card that is updated with the liturgical seasons or an information station that includes bibles, catechism, “connect” page. Greeters could be used more effectively or train individuals to serve in pastoral roles.

Parish and School Updates

Goal: Ensure the council is informed to listen effectively.

Father Brian reported the following:

- There were 3000 - 3500 people at the Ash Wednesday services. Ushers greeted people especially in the morning. Parish staff greeted those coming for the afternoon and evening services.
- The parish is hiring a liturgical coordinator
- High school retreat was successful with 22 students in attendance
- ELC has 61 children with a goal of 70 by the end of the school year
- Increased offertory campaign was successful; would like to propose it being an annual discussion with the parish
- Ministry leader summit includes 40 who have RSVPd
- Holy Week mission is on track
- Parish Directory will be available in the next few weeks

Nominations Committee

Goal: Progress toward 12 members by March 19th

Seven candidates were nominated or self-nominated for consideration. The committee will conduct interviews with the candidates and provide recommendations back to the council at the next meeting.

Statutes Committee

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

Council members provided suggestions to the revised statutes to clarify reappointment procedures. With the updated content, the statutes will be submitted to Fr. Brian for signature.

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.

Other

Goal: Fr. Brian hears Council opinions

Council recommended that the slides be formatted more professionally during the Sunday evening mass.

There is excitement building for the Easter Vigil, with 13 baptisms planned.

Closing (Litany of St. Joseph) Prayer led by Father Brian

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

The next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Christina Robertson