

**Blessed Trinity/St. John Evangelist
Joint Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2025 6:30 PM Blessed Trinity Parish's Church Hall**

Council Members Present: Scott Birenbaum, Steven Falconer, Terry Hartman, Nancy Mathieu, Al Mayer, Rick Michaletz, Siena Mooren, Jim O'Neill, Toni Sarafin, Sarah Schueffner, Mary Jo Schultz, Donna Stieghorst and Ken Udovich

Parish Staff Present: Fr. Michael Lawinger and Sandy Jordan

Excused Absence: Nick Cinquepalmi, Rich Cvetan, Paul Garni, Mason Klahn, Terry Rotter, Rob Wenberg and Bridgitt Zielke

Call to Order: Scott Birenbaum

Approval of Agenda:

Jim O'Neill moved to approve the agenda. Rick Michaletz seconded it with the addition of introductions of members.

Pastor's Report: A New Way of Doing Things

Some changes have been made to the structure of our Pastoral Council meetings. The order of the agenda, time allotted, and goal of each item may be different than we have seen in the past. There is also time allotted for prayer development. The meetings should be fruitful, concrete and direct. Committee reports are still being assessed as the best way to inform the Pastoral Council and the parishioners.

Approval of Minutes –

BT PC May 15, 2025

Jim O'Neill moved to approve the minutes. Al Mayer seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

SJE PC May 22, 2025

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the minutes. Toni Sarafin seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Joint PC June 26, 2025

Rick Michaletz moved to approve the minutes. Mary Jo Schultz seconded it. Minutes approved as written.

Prayer Instruction: Pirate Prayer

The Pirate Prayer is a great format to guide yourself in silent prayer. There are four parts to the prayer:

- Acknowledge: Bring to mind the thoughts and feelings you have right now.
- Relate: Name those things and offer them to our Lord. 'Lord, I want to give you...'
- Receive: See what God wants to offer back to us. Listen for God's response.
- Rest: Nothing needs to be done for this part. This part can often be the most fruitful. You may notice that your body needs to settle and enjoy the quiet. See where this takes you.

Old Business:

- Joint Parish Picnic Update

Feedback on the joint parish picnic has been positive so far. There were some weather concerns due to the rain during the day so some rearranging needed to be made to the set-up and a few modifications to the event. The food trucks offered delicious food. People even stayed past the 3:00 end time. It is hard to tell the number of people that attended but a best guess is possibly 120 – 150 people. It was nice to see both parishes enjoying time together.

- **Religious Education Update**
Changes will be happening this year. Two of the three DREs from both parishes have left the parishes so changes in the program needed to happen sooner than anticipated. This year Wednesday evenings will be dedicated to religious education classes. Fr. Michael will be teaching the confirmation group. Other volunteers will be teaching the other grade levels. Natalie Kohlhagen will be helping with the programming as well. There will be a bus contracted to take the students from Sheboygan Falls to Kohler for class. A letter will be shared with parents listing options for religious education this year. Next year the religious education program will take place in June. It will be a 2-week summer camp format. There will be 3-hour classes offered each day. This format will give the catechists the ability to develop the content deeper with the students. There is also hope that volunteers may be easier to find. Throughout the school year, other optional events will be offered to all grade levels, like bible studies and small group activities.
- **Totus Tuus Update**
The week went very well. Twice as many students attended this year compared to last year. We were fortunate to have missionary students on site. It was wonderful to see the students so engaged in the program and activities. We would like to have Totus Tuus back next year.

New Business:

- **Joint Pastoral Council Officer Discernment**
Chair – Sarah Schueffner
Vice-Chair – Rick Michaletz
Secretary – Al Mayer
- **Formation of Jerry Ziegler Award Subcommittee**
Nancy Mathieu, Terry Hartman and Mary Jo Schultz will work together to determine some possible nominees to present to Fr. Michael.

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda

- Religious education
- Liaison's purpose/necessity
- PC norms appendix changes
- Festivals at our parishes

Closing Prayer – Fr. Michael

Important Dates:

- September 16 – Joint Pastoral Council Meeting (St. John's Parish Hall)
- October 12 – BT & SJE Confirmation (Blessed Trinity)
- November 15 – Blessed Trinity's Autumn Fest (Church Hall)