

**St. Joseph the Worker**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Attendance:** Fr. Joe Molloy, Debbie Shawgo, Rachel Green, Autumn Cattoor, Pat Kornfeld, Liz Reef, Jacob Siebert, Jennifer Trapani, Rob Flesher & Grace Ann Thomas  
Potential new board members- Tom Haase, Steve Foster and Sean Fink

- **Opening prayer-** Rachel Green
- **Review and approve September 2025 meeting minutes**
  - A motion was made to approve minutes- Rob Flesher
  - Second by Grace Ann Thomas
  - All council members agreed to approve.
- **Fr Joe Updates:**
  - Campaign project updates- *Patience is the virtue we are strengthening*
    - Entrance- moving along slowly.
      - The door ordered was not the right size- will be installed when correct door arrives.
      - Lights will be placed overhead.
      - This project may be complete by Thanksgiving (if no other delays).
    - Kitchen
      - Issues with plumbing and pipes. Bigger project than anticipated.
      - Longer timeframe for completion.
    - Bathrooms
      - State inspector plumber to come in to ensure completed correctly.
    - Kollross Hall
      - Carpet is installed.
      - Half of the walls are painted. 😊
    - Improvements to lighting and sound in church is in progress.
  - Fr Joe Educational videos
    - Jacob Siebert to contact potential videographer (Danny Frey) to see if he will assist.
  - 101 Questions/Answers with Fr Joe- Tuesdays in November 6:00-7:00
    - 60 new questions have been gathered.
    - Parishioners encouraged to bring their own questions.
  - Evangelization (Parish Vitality)
    - “Why Sunday Matters”, (first published by the Irish Bishops), scheduled to be mailed to all parishioners.
      - Modern Mailing pricing for printing, stuffing and mailing of 3-page documents to 1,080 homes = \$850 + postage.

- Fr Joe has drafted a letter to ask parishioners to come back to Mass.
  - Suggestion to also email and add the article to our parish website.
- Church cry room discussion
  - A parishioner suggested that it should be revamped/renovated.
    - Pictures on the walls.
    - Picture books for children.
    - Crayons & coloring sheets.
    - Volunteers could tidy the room each week.
  - Members discussed and decided against changes to the cry room.
    - Families can bring their own coloring items, small toys, books etc as each deems appropriate to Mass.
    - The purpose of the room.
      - Space for parents to console their small crying children.
    - When children are consoled, we hope they return to their pews.
    - Concerns that if the cry room was made a more enjoyable environment, then small children would want to be in the Cry Room.
      - The goal is for all children to participate in and be celebrating mass in our church.
    - Sound system not working consistently in the cry room.
      - Goal= fix this so Mass can still be heard in the cry room consistently.
    - Someone suggested a TV in the cry room for people to watch Mass
      - Most felt that the view from the cry room was similar to that of the back pews.
      - Mixed views expressed.
  - Some parishioners feel the cry room is underutilized resulting in a church environment that makes prayer difficult.
    - When children are crying/screaming and inconsolable this can be very distracting when parents do not use the cry room.
    - Discussed that when the sound system is fixed, maybe more families would utilize the room.
    - We want our church to be a place that is favorable for prayer & worship for parishioners of all ages.
- **New Business**
  - Introduction of three potential board members: Steve Foster, Tom Haase, Sean Fink
- **Old Business**
  - 2026 Mission singer/speaker: **Lee Roessler & Joe Farris**
    - Proposed dates of February 27<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, OR March 13-16, 2027
    - Lee is unavailable 2/27-3/1/26 (performing in Michigan)
    - Joe proposed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday (3/1/26-3/3/26)
      - Joe can fly in Saturday morning and do the invitation at all the Masses

- Council agreed two nights would be best (**Sunday 3/1- Monday 3/2, 2026** evenings)
    - Liz to move forward with scheduling
- 2027 Mission Update: **Fr Sichko March 13-16<sup>th</sup>, 2027**
  - Father Sichko to arrive 3/13.
  - Mission **Sunday-Tuesday nights (3/14-3/16)**.
  - Deposit was made.
- Logo design
  - Logo winner
    - Ben Kwedar will help with Ace Sign Co logo process.
    - Phil Mulford will be our contact to get mockups for the logo.
    - When completed we will move forward with the new Parish sign.
  - Consideration of second place logo design use in another manner.
    - Utilize for social media- Facebook page or other?
    - Stained glass or vinyl art for the church or in the new entrance.
      - Middle window of our new entrance space discussed.
      - Father Joe to look for a place.
- Evangelization ideas, suggestions
  - Google review- up to 4.6 stars with 23 reviews.
  - How can we draw in new parishioners?
  - Utilize Fr Joe's Q&A sessions to film and cut pieces for videos for Instagram/Facebook social media?
  - Discussed 7% increase in Mass attendance since the year prior.
  - Events and social media presence- more evening events?
    - Community events to bring parishioners in.
    - 'Welcome back party'.
    - Free event for the Chatham community?
    - "Come Home for Christmas" in our diocese.
      - Do something similar for Easter?
        - Construction will be completed then.
        - "See our new House"/ open house event.
  - Discussed the rise in OCIA catechumens in area Catholic churches currently.
    - Why isn't our parish seeing the same increase?
      - Smaller number of catechumens.
      - Uptick in baptisms.
      - Increase the comfort/teach our parishioners to be evangelizers, missionaries and how to share our faith.
      - Invite people back- word of mouth.
      - Market for missions- cards, social media, evangelize through the Ask Fr Joe Q&A event.
- Share the word candle each Sunday

- Autumn has a core memory of a candle presented each week to a different child to carry the small candle out of the church each week.
- The child blew it out when they arrived in the Share the Word location.
- Some council Members were nervous about small children with candles.
- The book or a LED candle was also suggested items for one child to carry each week.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 24, 2025 @ 5:30PM

Opening Prayer: Liz Reef