

**St. Joseph the Worker**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, November 27, 2023

Council Members in attendance: Fr. Joe Molloy, Sr. Judy Pfile, Gavin Davis, Rob Flesher, Rachel Green, Pat Kornfeld, Ben Kwedar, Liz Reef, Debbie Shawgo, Grace Ann Thomas, Jennifer Trapani.

- **Opening Prayer-** Debbie Shawgo
- Review and approve October 2023 meeting minutes Motion to approve made by Rachel Green, a second to the motion by Ben Kwedar. All Pastoral Council expressed their agreement to approve.
- **Fr. Joe Updates**
  - Drainage renovation is almost completed. Plans are to grade and seed yet this fall with the possibility of reseeded in the Spring if grass does not sprout.
    - Sprinkler system could not be saved, will be another expense to replace.
  - Landscaping will be completed after sprinkler system installed.
  - Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck will be here on March 19 for a mission talk during Lent
    - Can watch the presentation he made at the diocesan Eucharistic Congress (10-28-23) on DIO.org
  - Shout-out to Grace Stenke, new Youth Coordinator. Fr. Joe is very happy with how she has gotten youth involved thus far.
  - Gracie Ortiz, Diocesan Director for the office of Marriage and Family Life recently visited Fr. Joe and made a couple of suggestions. Fr. asks Council to think about potentially forming the following groups:
    - Divorce and Re-Married group
    - Mentors for young married couples
  - The plan to return to passing collection baskets at mass will be postponed until more information is reviewed and discussed at the diocesan level.
  - Please bring capital campaign questions to Fr. Joe by tomorrow (11/28). Will probably go with Steir group.
    - Campaign priorities will be repaving the parking lot, updating the kitchen/O'Hara Hall, upgrading lighting, concrete work, digital sign
    - Fr. Joe would like to have a short meeting to go over the questions. Would like to have a decision in by January/February. Council is flexible to meet on whichever day works with the Finance committee and Steir.
    - The parish campaign needs are more refresh and update of certain areas where other parish campaigns are focusing on new buildings/major renovations, etc.
  - Andrew Dinner was on 11/8. Six (6) youth from SJW. Discussion with Priests share about vocation.

### **New Business**

- Additional changes to Bylaws revisions/discussion/approval
  - Council votes to approve the revisions of the bylaws as discussed.
- Revisiting bringing parishioners back to church
  - This topic was tabled during a previous discussion. Will be revisited again during January and throughout 2024.
    - Mass attendance has increased from 500s to 600s and sometimes 700.
    - New ideas: How do we entice people come back after Christmas?
      - Presentation with highlights of St. Joes from last Christmas
      - Post it on Facebook and Chatham Clarion

### **Old Business**

- Update on recruitment of new youth member (Gavin)
  - Potential new member is interested in the position.
- Status on digital sign (Ben)
  - Same color, “The Worker” should be White instead of Yellow.
  - Catholic Church in smaller font or same size as “The Worker”?
  - Can ask Stier group if their graphic designer can help with the design of a logo.
- Comments or suggestions from council members for future consideration
- Closing prayer

Next Meeting: January 22, 2024

Opening Prayer: Pat Kornfeld