

Tri-Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

January 20th, 2026

6:30-8:00PM

St. Joseph Parish Center

Minutes recorded by Julie Mermal

Attendance: Fr. Jim (P), Fr. Ryan (P), Sr. Janeth (NP), Magali Barajas (NP)

Trustees: Mary Henningfield (NP), Don Siehoff (P), Barb Bakshis (NP), Terri Newbury (P), Bob O'Neill (NP), John Gabaldo (NP)

Pastoral Council Members: Maddy Miller (NP), Mackenzie Hewitt (NP), Megan Cash (P), Julie Mermal (P), Michelle Pederson (P), Janna Tichenor (P), Joe Dedick (NP), Holly Reesman (P), Laura Freeburn (P)

Guests:

Janna Tichenor opened the meeting, prayer read by all, followed by spontaneous prayer by all.

Mission Statement read by all.

Approval of November minutes: approved with one edit

Standing Committee Reports:

(Reminder to Liaisons to inform their committee secretaries to send the approved meeting minutes to each parish so they can post them on their websites.)

Liaisons need to report only significant information that needs feedback from the Council.

***Send your minutes to Secretary (Mackenzie) so they can be sent out and viewed by PC members prior to our meeting

Worship/Liturgy liaison Michelle Pederson:

- Reviewed worship and liturgy from Christmas masses and upcoming masses
- Lenten Mission will be focused on the topic of healing. Meal provided by the Knights of Columbus. March 15-17. Margaret Rhody from the Arch is involved in the planning process.

Human Concerns liaison Holly Reesman:

- Next meeting Feb. 3rd. Need someone to cover for Holly. Michelle Pederson offered. New chairperson, Jennifer Robson to replace Jackie Scholze. Holly can email any requests to her. Jennifer is a St. Mary Parish member.

Evangelization and Formation Liaison Megan Cash:

- OCIA to start earlier in the year to accommodate the content of the program and avoid being rushed
- 4 Confirmation candidates being received Divine Mercy Sunday
- 7 Candidates being received at Easter Vigil
- 4 Candidates from the Hispanic Community will be received at Pentecost Spanish Mass, Memorial Weekend
- Movie, The Face of God, about the Shroud of Torin, March 1st at St. Charles
- Adoration: there is initiative to sign up for 1 hour a month by Soly Chacko

Stewardship/Parish Life liaison Julie Mermal:

- **Mission Objectives and Personal Pledges- Retreat Review:**
 - Reminder to renew your personal pledges as they relate to the objectives of our Mission Statement. Discussed the difference between disciples and apostles. Review notes on Sanctification; how deepening your relationship with Christ is necessary for strong parish leadership.
 - Consider attending a Called and Gifted workshop to help enliven your gifts and talents, knowing how to better serve Christ and his Church; e.g. organizing/leading a support group, being a Sponsor for OCIA Candidates.
- Stewardship response from St. Mary: out of 643 families, 209 were returned. 46% indicated a 5% or more increase over last year's pledge. St. Joseph: 47 out of 159 households were returned. Only 4 expressed interest in a new area. The rest checked what they already do. St. Charles: no report.

Burlington Catholic School Board of Directors liaison Maddy Miller:

- Surveys for school are going out
- Enrollment is up to 427
- Reunification site visit coming up for all staff
- Christmas Concert went very well
- Applied for new security grant from the Arch
- Tuition voted on 5% increase for school 7% increase for early childhood
- Parent listening session February 4th
- Open House for both campuses for Catholic Schools Week. All school Mass celebrated by the Archbishop 1/28.
- Catholic Schools Week January 26th-31st – Open House at both campuses on Saturday the 24th

- All-school Mass with Archbishop Grob- January 28th, including St. Andrew, St. Francis, St. Alphonsus, St. Mary, St. Charles, Catholic Central—probably not open to public

Finance:

St. Charles liaison Laura Freeburn:

- Sister's moving out of the parish house in February. Annual meeting went well, 20 attendees. Boilers cleaned and maintenance complete. Stained glass repair needed, money donated. Emergency operations grant that will cover all 3 churches. BCS 26'-27' budget complete with a 5% tuition increase.

St. Joseph liaison Janna Tichenor:

- Work at cemetery. Security updates to Parish Center. Casino Night is Valentine's theme.

St. Mary liaison Joe Dedick:

- No meeting yet. Don Siehoff added- stewardship came in strong end of year; 3% ahead of normal budgeted amount. Renovation was covered, all but \$25k. Bathrooms being renovated and funded by a generous parish member.

Hispanic Committee Report- Magali:

- Janna reported for Magali. Book given as a gift to the newly baptized. Looking for Adoration at St. Mary. Guadalupe festivals were reviewed and there was a good turn out from the Community. New Year Mass and Epiphany celebration, great turn out. Teen Fun Night Feb. 14th in Andre Hall. Evening of reflection for liturgical volunteers Feb. 28th.
- (From Megan) Soly's blog: Invitation to Adoration. Possible flyer in bulletin, commit to one hour each month. Sunday, Feb 1: Candlemas (40 days after Christmas, Mary's Dedication)

Deanery Report (Michelle Pederson/Holly Reesman)

- No report

Catholic Community Events: (including Hispanic Community events)

-January 22: Celebrate Life Event at St. Mary. People showed up, mostly Catholics. Julie Mermal and others got asked questions from community members in cars driving by

-February 8: Souper Bowl of Caring - proceeds benefit Burlington elementary supply cupboards, list of requests from Ellie Schultz, collections at all churches through 2/8, free soup!

-February 14: St. Joseph Casino Night - theme is Valentine's Day

-February 27, March 13, March 27: St. Mary Fish Fry. Volunteers have been emailed.

-March 7: St. Charles Spaghetti Dinner

-June 7: St. Joseph Chicken Dinner

Pastors' Comments -Fr. Jim:

- Christmas masses went very well. Special thank you to all who made them happen. Thanks to chairs and decorators. Special Mass of Dedication of St. Mary with the Archbishop, January 24th, dinner and special concert
- Hiring a Tri-Parish Business Manager. Sue Vrzan is retiring at the end of March. Interviews tomorrow, 1 of 12 applications
- Received concerns asking us to be more kind and tolerant of the hard work our volunteers do, especially older volunteers. Consider Mass of Appreciation for all who volunteer, and/or an appreciation dinner. Suggestion given by Janna to consider asking Knights to put on the mea
- Holly added Eucharistic Distribution Team is now 6 people!
- Renovations Team- a thank you dinner was held, pizza and beer, very appreciated

Old Business:

- Souper Bowl of Caring within one week of Casino Night. Okayed per email by Maddy Miller
- National Eucharistic Revival, Walk With One initiative began

New Business:

- Knights of Columbus has reached out about handing out Life Savers after each St. Charles mass- weekend is TBD, but they want a weekend in February or March. Are there any weekends other than Spaghetti Dinner (March 7) weekend that should be avoided? Mackenzie will be in contact with Joe Schaefer
 - Discussed K of C handing out Lifesavers and Spaghetti Dinner. Conflict with Friday Fish Fry weekends at St. Mary
 - During Lent, is this a good idea, sensitive to those giving up sweets? Maybe people can hold/give for Easter baskets?

- **Event Requests:**

- Knights of Columbus Food Drive at St. Charles and St. Joseph, add to calendar, (approved by those in attendance)
 - November 7-8, 2026: Bag Handouts after each mass at St. Charles
 - November 14-15, 2026: Food Collection prior to each mass St. Charles
 - December 5-6, 2026: Bag Handout St. Joseph
 - December 12-13, 2026: Food Collection St. Joseph

Voice of the People: (opportunity for parish member input)

- From Janna: parishioners at St. Joseph are asking about a Celebration of Service for Fr. Jim (and Fr. Ryan?) but help is needed at St. Mary and St. Charles, how do we start?
 - ACTION ITEM: Laura and Julie will ask at their committee meetings
 - Needs to be coordinated by the Tri-Parish Council—we need a subcommittee for this
- Advertising in Burlington Newspaper—“Interested in Becoming Catholic?”, need someone to create a copy (Kelly Kamlager?). We used to do “Catholics Come Home” evenings, to ads in paper, posters. Check with Sue Vrzan about existing information before she leaves. Colleen and Ellie are working toward outreach activities

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 St. Joseph Parish Center

Need volunteer for Closing Prayer: Michelle Pederson

Closing Prayer: Julie Mermal

Meeting Adjourned: Janna Tichenor