

**NW Racine Parishes
Pastoral Council Minutes
Aug 12, 2025**

Attendees: Fr. Thomas Vathappallil, Fr. Joseph Heit, Corinne Angotti, Lisa Christiansen, Michael Clementi, Dennis Collins, Barb Hanke, Mary Loendorf, Mark Schmitz, John Topczewski, Stephanie Warner, Jean Weaver, Jeff Wilkins

Excused: Sharon Gierahn, Dave Holland, Andy Horstman, Jessica Olle, Jennifer Tremelling

Guests: Parish members - Mary Paul

Meeting

Meeting called to order by Fr. Thomas at 6:30 pm.

Opening prayer was led by Fr. Thomas

Handouts: Instructions for completion of pastoral council appendix

Minutes: Minutes for the previous meeting were distributed and reviewed via email in June.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Thomas

Introductions of and to Fr. Joseph as this was his first pastoral council meeting.

Focus for 2025/26 will be on coordinating and organizing all our ministries across the cluster. Started ministry meetings with ministry leaders and anyone interested in the particular ministry. Goal is to listen, learn and plan together.

- First meeting held 8/6 for book clubs and bible study groups – standard form provided for leaders to come up with suggestions for ways for the different parish groups to work together before the end of December.
- Next meeting on communion ministry to be 8/13

Festival Update – Festival was successful and profits have been divided among the 4 parishes based on volunteer hours provided by parish members. Plan is to have a 2026 festival.

Father encouraged all council members to attend the 180th anniversary celebration at St. Louis 8/24.

New trustee has been selected for St. Paul's pending archdiocese approval.

Interviews ongoing for the open bookkeeper position.

Religious Education updates to be communicated in an upcoming bulletin article.

Parishioner Feedback Discussion – Barb Hanke

Council discussed best ways to get feedback from the parishioners. Barb explained St. Louis 'good of the parish' discussions which the St. Louis parish council had adopted. They found direct discussion with council members who were available before or after mass got the best results.

Council proposed the following process to solicit parishioner feedback: Periodically (preferably shortly before a council meeting) we will have council members available to speak with parishioners on a given weekend. An announcement will be in the bulletin the week before the designated date to make parishioners aware and also to ensure council members can be sure to be present at their home parish that weekend. We will do a trial run and then review at our October meeting.

Nametags for council members to be researched by Corinne.

Discussed setting up a specific parish council email that parishioners could also use to provide feedback.

Pastoral Council Appendix – Jean Weaver

Different options for the membership, and the process for nomination and selection of new council members portions of the appendix were presented and discussed. Options agreed upon by the council will be updated in the appendix document and distributed for review prior to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:30pm at St. Paul Church

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.