

**Pastoral Council's Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 19, 2025**  
**UNAPPROVED Minutes**

**Attendance:** Father Robert, Terri Romitti, Ted Zabel, Roger Stanley, Jennifer Otto, Carli Peters, Carl Peterson, Will VanRossum, Randy Conrad, Leah VandenBosch

**Opening Prayer** – Father Robert at 6:40 pm

**Approval of Agenda** –Motion to approve 1) Jen Otto 2) Carl Peterson; unanimous

**Approval of Pastoral Council 1.16.25 Minutes:** Motion to approve 1) Ted Zabel 2) Will VanRossum; unanimous

**Discussion on possibility of mass time changes when new priest arrives.** We will be meeting in the St. Therese Hall on **Monday, March 31 at 6pm** with St. Edwards Parish and a representative from the Diocese to discuss what it will look like with a new priest(s). Pastoral Council will meet after this meeting to further discuss our options as a parish. Talked about what time we would like to offer the parish and whether there was a need in the parish for another mass to be offered. Discussed Saturday evening mass times of 4 or 5pm, Sunday mass times of 7am, 8am, 9am, 10am, 5pm, 6pm; or another variation of between those times. Looking to create a survey for the parish to see what the majority are looking for.

**Volunteer Appreciation Meal:** Discussed meal options and decided to host a dinner at St. Nicholas catered by Van Abel's. Jen Otto will contact Abby Linwood regarding the use of the gym that day and set up. Jen will also get Van Abel's contracted as well as creating an invite. Terri Romitti will get the volunteer list finalized and work with David Everson to get a pastoral email address created. We will also use this email to communicate the survey for the mass times. Father will be leaving on April 21 for 3 weeks and will not be able to join us for the volunteer dinner. However, will do a thank you and blessing video😊

**Strategic Planning update:** Terri updated the strategic planning after meeting with the planning group. Nikki VanHandel is going to discuss with Seth Ponschock to have the ushers be greeters at the doors prior to mass. School enrollment was also discussed for future logistics. The 3k and 4k classes are full and we do have a waitlist. Kindergarten has 10 students, so we are looking at how to keep the students moving forward with the upper classes. Tuition has already been increased for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Committee Reports:**

- 1) **Finance Council: Will VanRossum** – Janet with Catholic Foundations discussed the 2 endowments we have and ways we should be utilizing them with our parish. There is a 5% payout each year with restrictions; however is open ended. There is an average of 8% return. Looking to build the endowments for future use and will possibly host an evening seminar with the parish to discuss how endowments are beneficial. The finance council will create a draft format to list the fiscal '26 year budget to put in the bulletin. Finance also increase the gym rental by 25%. Kelly Oudenhoven is looking to do a May Moola Fundraiser. Possibly having it available for Grandparents Day and Easter for families to sell.
- 2) **School Advisory: Jen Otto**- School Advisory discussed enrollment and the need to promote keeping the students at St. Nicholas for the duration of our school years. The Grilled Cheese night went well. There is a calendar change for next school year: November 10<sup>th</sup> will be a day off and December 12<sup>th</sup> will be school with no bus transportation.

3) **Discipleship: Roger Stanley** – Better together wrapped up the year with a meeting and have next year's dates on the calendar. Ladies nights dates are set for next year. Adult Lenten study has 4 meetings in and going well. Started a new women's group on Thursday mornings after mass and has been very fruitful. Widow and Widowers 2<sup>nd</sup> annual dinner will be held on April 22 after mass and has invited St. Eds. Middle and high schoolers continue to meet monthly with a steady attendance as well as middle school breakfast. The Leadership Retreat was held March 7-9 with 7 high school students from St. Nicholas attending. A follow up get together for those students was held March 16<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-six 2<sup>nd</sup> graders made their First Reconciliation. Confirmation Mass with Abbott Dane was beautiful on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The New youth room is ready and will be blessed and presented to the teens that join us on April 13<sup>th</sup> for youth night. The last RE night will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming confirmation class for 25-26 year will meet on April 16<sup>th</sup>. We are hosting a catechist appreciation dinner on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration for the 25-26 year will open on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for all you do for our Discipleship program!

4) **Worship: Carl Peterson** – Stations and Soup is being held after the 10:30am mass and is going well. Palm Sunday mass will begin in the St. Therese Hall and then process into church. Holy Thursday is looking for 10 parishioners to have their feet washed. Servers will need to be aware of the bell ringing for the Gloria on Easter. May Crowning and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion will be held at all the masses the weekend of May 3 and 4. Prom mass will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at the 4pm mass.

5) **Hospitality: Ted Zabel** – Hospitality has been a successful program. Has struggled but is currently doing well😊

6) **Buildings and Grounds: Randy Conrad** – The boiler valves have been replaced and are running smoothly. Fathers home will be updated while he is gone. There is a sinkhole in the playground area that Terry VanHoof will be bringing in dirt to fill in.

**New Business:** Jen Otto printed a list of next year's meeting dates for Father to look at prior to him leaving. Jen Otto brought a calendar from another parish that they use to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Was thinking we could revamp to be used for Lent to donate for the rice bowl. Father will take a look at it. Jen Otto also brought a sample survey for all parish and school faculty to fill out to get a better understanding of how they feel their positions are going. Looking at possibly have them fill it out after 1 month, 6 months and end of year. Will VanRossum said this was done a few years ago and will forward what they used. Thought it was a good idea to implement this from the Pastoral Council email so it doesn't go directly to a personalized email account.

**We will meet on Monday, March 31 at 6:00pm in the St. Therese Hall with St. Edward and a Diocese representative. Pastoral Council will meet directly after this meeting to discuss any further action needed.**

**Next Pastoral Council Meeting is moved to Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 6:30 pm**

**Closing prayer** – 7:48 pm

**Motion to Adjourn** 1) Carli Peters 2) Carl Peterson; Unanimous

*Submitted by: Jennifer Otto*