

May 13, 2025



Council members in attendance were Lorna Vertrees, Lou Edmondson, Jeff Lanz, Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Scott Johnson, Father Michael and Father Quan.

Meeting began with prayer by Father Michael with special intentions from council members.

Finance Report was emailed by Greg Schrecke, Scott filled in for Greg at the meeting to go over the report from finance committee. Scott stated that school tuition increased marginally this year. Preschool is close on positive cash flow, staffing is biggest expenditure, cost of goods from ministries are 3-10% higher. Collections are steady and will likely finish fiscal year on target. The school debt will be under 5 million in November 2025. Father Michael said St. James has healthy outlook, more realistic from previous years. The school office needs new HVAC system. The unit is old and cannot find anyone to work on it. They have had several people look at it and all of them said it needs to be replaced.

Father Michael's Notes - academic year went well. Pat Black did a great job as interim principal. New hire is John Stith. He is a practicing Catholic; he has years of experience. Fabiola will be leaving in June. Her successor will join the staff later this month. We have a new Sister coming, she will be teaching 3rd grade. We only have one classroom teacher not returning. We will also be hiring a new PE teacher. The planning report that the Archdiocese has asked for from parishes will be received in May and due back to the archdiocese in August. It should draw to a close with a new pastoral plan for the diocese in place by the end of 2026 or beginning 2027.

Faith Formation - Lou reported that they are preparing for Fabiola's retirement at the end of June. They are looking at some great applications and are hoping to announce new hire soon. Deacon Dean and Susan will begin a new series in September. They do a fabulous job. Sister Augusta reported that OCIA had 5 new Catechumens, 7 candidates at Easter Vigil. Sister spoke on how to stay involved and will talk on Stewardship next week. 12 children from Hispanic community will receive 1st Holy Communion on Sunday April 27th. 39 children (15 from FFF, 24 from school) will receive First Holy Communion on Saturday May 10th. May crowning on May 15th. Olivia said they are winding down Middle School and High School Ministries. Confirmation sessions will end for the summer and will start back in August, with items to be completed over summer. Knights of Columbus will sponsor flowers for mothers on Mother's Day, and a photo prop will be in back of the church. Vacation Bible School registration is open. 11 Baptisms are pending, two weddings in May.

Parish Life - Cheri gave reports on various committees. Wellness Committee chaired by Maggie Beville, Zumba is going strong, they will help at picnic with first aid, Walk and Pray the Rosary is still very active after Catholic Women of St. James meetings. Seeds of Kindness has sent out about 300 sympathy cards since August 2021, over 1000 cards sent to homeless/assisted living parishioners and will send out cards in May to First Holy

Communicants. Lorna suggested to the group that it would be nice to send cards to the former priests assigned to St. James in the honor of our 175th Anniversary. Cultural Diversity has nothing presently going on.

School Board - Father Michael said school board is doing a good job. They are looking at dress code, new PE teacher and possible discount for St. James teachers' children that go to St James.

Social Concerns - Jordan sent report. St. Vincent DePaul Outreach spent less money and saw fewer people this past quarter. No explanation! Their financial posture remains good. The major concern continues to be centered around volunteer help. Hopefully we will see some new interest in upcoming Stewardship forms. Room in the Inn stayed open two days a week while Warm Blessings is closed. Serving lunch and allowing guests to take showers. Homebound is eager to see if new members will sign up with Stewardship renewal but overall is going well. Please continue to pray for Haiti.

Stewardship and Administration - Lorna reported that stewardship packets have gone out, some families have already turned them back in. St. James Picnic planning coming along. They are looking to see if they can get a country music act to come play. There are a couple of connections to a band. Raffle tickets selling in June, most volunteers for the picnic come from school families. The picnic can use many more volunteers. Please sign up! Lorna also spoke on the 175th Anniversary of St James they have some members working on a book.

Worship- Jeff said since our last meeting church has been very active with Christmas and Easter seasons. A lot of donations - new torches and canopy. They have received monetary donation to purchase a new thurible (incense burner on chain). Some changes are coming to EHMC instructions. He will be going over things with ushers asking that they straighten hymnals and remove trash from pews after Mass.

Father Quan expressed gratitude to Father Michael for being the best priest to work with. He is saddened to leave St. James but excited to be going to his new assignment. St. James families have welcomed him as one of their family members and wants us to visit him and continue to pray for him and will keep us in his prayers.

Father Quan closed meeting with a prayer. No date has been set for next meeting.