SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting September 9, 2025, 6:00-7:00 pm. Parish Office Basement



MINUTES

Agenda Overview and Prayer Requests - Lorna Vertrees

Welcome to Father Cole McDowell!

Opening Prayer and Pastor's Notes - Father Michael Fr. Cole, Lorena Cantero, and Josh Walls are off to a great start on the parish staff. This is a very talented group, and we are excited to have them on board in the parish.

Bob Kilmer: Historical Committee: Bob Kilmer attended to discuss the thorough tasks the Historical Committee is working on in preparation for our 175th anniversary. They are updating the copy of the 1976 historical book but getting it current is a huge task. They are working diligently to keep parishioners informed and invite anyone interested to participate.

Parish Pastoral Council Chair Reports -

- **Faith Formation** Olivia and Josh are working very well together. Family Faith Formation has approximately 84 students enrolled. Middle School Youth Ministry is thriving with an average of 23 students participating. Volunteers are showing up with 27 volunteers helping and 5 sub-catechists. High School Youth Ministry has 86 students enrolled! We have had 26 baptisms since January and 6 more are pending. Ten weddings/validations this year so far, with 3 more in the fall and 8 already on next year's calendar. There are 12 individuals discerning Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Advent by Candlelight preparations will begin soon. The men's retreat is scheduled for March 2026, with more details to come.
- **Finance** Draft of financial update for the accountability report. The year starts off strong; preschool grant income expired. The large deficit comes mostly from losing the preschool grant. It was widely used for teaching support, but we were able to retain that group of personnel. Collections have finally returned to pre-Covid levels. Security and campus safety have been on top of minds. The Finance Committee meets next week with the Chief Finance Officer and Vice-Chancellor for Administration attending from the Archdiocese to offer perspective on school finances and collection data locally and across diocese.
- **Parish Life** Picnic- Great crowd, waiting on final numbers. Beautiful weather. The picnic co-chairs will remain the same for next year but will likely be looking to hand it off to a new chairperson after that.
- **School Board** New principal, school has been underway for a month now. New PE teacher, Mr. Lowman is doing well. John Stith is participating in a principal cohort from

Archdiocese of Louisville. He brings a valuable perspective with extensive experience in education. Committees will be meeting in September, and we will convene again as a board in October.

- **Social Concerns** Homebound: Going well but could use more volunteers. Currently, Deacon Dean feels like some of our assisted living homes are not being served as they should be. Blood Drive: There is an upcoming blood drive scheduled for Sept. 21, we are hoping to have a good turnout. Respect Life: Respect Life Committee has been very active in getting pledges and participants from our parish for Clarity's Walk for Life. They will also be getting ready to set up the white wooden crosses in Dr. Godfrey's yard- scheduled for late Oct.- early December. Thanksgiving Committee will be holding their first meeting Oct. 4 and will be gearing up for what they anticipate being their largest dinner.
- **Stewardship and Administration** The campaign for getting new electronic pledges has helped increase the number of donors. The "swag" has been well received. 175th committees are in full swing. Nov. 22- Archbishop Shelton will be here for our event to kick off our historical year. Laurie has been very helpful in everything.
- **Worship** Eucharistic Minister changes seem to be working out well. More training is to come, especially for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, hopefully in October. Altar server training is approaching, and new servers are being added. There was a server outing sponsored by Knights of Columbus and 25 servers attended. New thurible was purchased thanks to a donation from a family in the parish. We are looking to find assistance for adoration.

Closing Comments - Father Michael

Blessing - Father Cole

Next meeting: To be determined