



Saint James
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MINUTES

Council members in attendance were Father Michael Wimsatt, Father Cole McDowell, Lorna Vertrees, Jordan Cofer, Cheri Ellis-Reeves, and Greg Schreacke. Council members who were not present were Lou Edmondson and Jeff Lanz.

6:00-6:10 pm

Agenda Overview and Prayer Requests - Lorna Vertrees

6:10 - 6:30 pm

Opening Prayer and Pastor's Notes - Father Michael
Updated on the Parish Planning Process 2025-2026.

6:30-7:00 pm

Parish Pastoral Council Chair Reports -

- **Faith Formation**- Currently there are seven pending baptisms and 12 pending weddings (eight couples in their 20s). OCIA - We currently have 17 in OCIA - 11 candidates, three adult catechumens, three baptized Catholics attending that have not received other initial sacraments. Advent by Candlelight is planned for Saturday, December 13. Lenten Men's and Women's Retreats are planned in Feb/March.

- **Finance** - CFO and Vice Chancellor from ArchLou were able to assist in viewing data from across all schools in the archdiocese to see where we land. School funding will need to be more aggressive. Tuition will increase by approximately 5% for parishioners and 10% non-parishioners. Accountability report forthcoming. Collections have remained flat since 2022, which isn't keeping up with the demands of inflation. Updates to how collection amounts received are presented in the bulletin have been made. Renovations have been approved for parish office.

- **Parish Life** - Seeds of Kindness will have their next gathering on December 4th to write and send Christmas cards to our homebound and assisted living parishioners. Forever Young had their holiday dinner on 11/11 at Tony York's. Hospitality ministry is going well. If time and talent permit, Seeds of Kindness will make Christmas ornaments to be delivered to assisted living centers. Knights of

Columbus did a fundraiser to purchase an ultrasound machine for Clarity Solutions.

- **School Board** - Ongoing business, primarily focused on increasing tuition. The school board was in support, especially considering we are the school in the diocese with the second lowest cost for families. The school year is in the second quarter and is going strong.

- **Social Concerns** - Blood drives have been going well. Room in the Inn needs many volunteers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as it is St. James's turn to host. St. Vincent de Paul Outreach has seen an increase in need. Their annual report stated that 1,860 households had received food assistance; 854 households received assistance with utilities. Total households assisted 2,947; with 5,664 members. Thanksgiving Dinner - so far 216 applications have been received. Updated totals will be available after the Nov. 17th meeting, but they are expected to surpass last year's numbers.

- **Stewardship and Administration** - 175 Anniversary has a busy calendar in store! Stewardship will begin meeting in January. Parish ornaments will be on sale starting Nov. 22. During the month of February, we want to display wedding photos from weddings that happened at St. James. August 22nd will be the picnic date. We plan to have a float in the Heartland parade.

- **Worship** - Things are in a good place for the visit from the Archbishop. An air duct is being blocked- looking to move the Divine Mercy portrait. Moving it would make the heating and cooling of the church more efficient.

Closing Comments - Father Michael

Blessing - Father Cole

Next meeting: January 13, 2026