

ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 3rd, 2026 6:30

Leannah Hall

Members:

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| ☒ Dcn. Brad Gallenberg (Pastoral Leader) | ☒ Derek Dettlaff (Sec-Trustee) | ☒ Nick Dahlke |
| ☒ Patty Schaefer (Chair) | ☒ Nicole Abramovich | ☒ Brett Helmbrecht |
| ☒ Connie Schuster (Vice Chair) | ☐ Jim Boyce | ☒ Lissa Young |
| ☒ Lori Welch (Secretary) | | |

Opening Prayer: Patty Schaefer

Approval of Sept. Agenda: Patty S. / Lori W.

Introductions:

Deacon Brad reviewed his role as Pastoral Leader in regards to parish council meetings. Patty S., Connie S., and Lori W. were introduced in their new officer roles. We welcomed our three new council members, Nicole A., Brett H., and Lissa Y along with a returning past member, Patty S.

Old Business:

The St. Carlo Acutis Chapel Opening has been scheduled, with Open House hours on October 1st and 2nd, and a Dedication Mass with Bishop Ricken on Oct. 3rd. There will be a reception in Leannah Hall after the Mass. A number of area priests and deacons will be in attendance at the Mass that will be held in the Chapel. The hope is to live-stream the Mass to guests in either Sacred Heart Church or Leannah Hall. Deacon Brad doesn't know if Fr. Louis Golmari will attend this event.

Finishing touches need to be completed, mainly the installation of the marble altar which has been stored at Reinke Monuments. A carpenter from R.J. Albright is constructing the kneeler rail, which is designed to match the rest of the woodwork in the chapel. Pew cushions and the kneeler cushion will be covered in the same upholstery.

The Adoration Chapel Committee is planning Open Hours at the chapel, occurring Monday mornings through Thursday evenings. The chapel has capacity for 34 people.

Deacon's Corner:

1.- Deacon Brad reviewed staff changes in the parish office. Jan Fenton is now working part time. Julie Duellman has been training as a new full time Admin Assistant, working with Jan and Caleigh Lippert.

Caleigh has taken on some of the duties Brad used to perform as business manager.

With Bertie Albright's upcoming retirement from the Care Coordinator position, Deacon Mark Leafgren from St. Raphael's Parish will assume this role effective Sept. 12th. Bertie will help Dcn. Mark with the transition, and will continue to lead the Grief Support Group. She plans to volunteer in other capacities.

2.- Deacon Brad shared his ideas/vision for the Parish Council. He'd like to see our council become more interactive with parishioners. He'd like to see us take the lead in activities and projects that increase parish membership and Mass attendance. In recent years, the council has served more as an administrative group, providing the pastor with information and concerns pertaining to various parish functions and organizations (Lourdes Academy, properties maintenance, finance, religious ed, cemetery, etc.) Deacon Brad informed us that the pastor and deacons generally know about these activities; Deacon Brad believes he can provide brief updates about these areas, rather than have council members do the footwork. This opens up meeting time for other discussion. Perhaps the Council meeting frequency will change.

We had some discussion about ways our parish could enhance the "One parish, two worship sites" concept. How can we become a more vibrant member of the community? Some ideas thrown out: Host a chili cookoff; participate in the Holiday Parade; serve a meal at Fr. Carr's; recruit volunteers to assist our parish's St. Vincent de Paul council. Deacon Brad will create a Google doc for us to share our ideas.

3.- Lourdes Academy will be vacating spaces in St. Vincent's school in early October. Lourdes is responsible to provide the labor to clean, repair, spruce up the space they have been using. Our parish will supply the materials. The building is in relatively good condition, having a newer boiler system and roof. Can we use this building in other ways? Some considerations being given are to host the Grief Support Group, OCIA meetings, Book Club and bible studies. Perhaps in the future, our parish will consider offering empty space to other parishes.

Other Business:

-Lori mentioned that in her capacity as an usher, she has noticed some crowding in the area reserved in the back of St. Vincent's church for parishioners with physical disabilities. There are people who sit there who do not appear to have a physical disability. Deacon Brad is aware of this situation. We agreed to table this topic for discussion at a later date.

-Lori suggested that a training checklist be developed for ushers. Her experience has been that information given to new ushers is not always consistent. Deacon Brad suggested Lori pursue this topic with Michael. We still have a need for ushers; Lissa suggested investigating parent-child usher positions. Could we use older Lourdes and Religious Ed students as ushers?

Closing Prayer: Deacon Brad

Adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

Deacon Brad gave us a tour of the chapel after our meeting!

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1st at 6:30

Leannah Hall, Sacred Heart Site