

**St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
5:30 p.m. Undercroft**

The Meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m. by Msgr. Gilles with a prayer.

Members Present: Kevin Decker, Tammy Becker, Mari Erickson, Olivia and Mike Knapik, Nick Harding, Cheri Rifenberg, Nancy Rose, Monica Leis, Jedidiah Taubel, Lynne Ostervich, and Msgr. Gilles.

Deacon Chris Kabat, Lauren Harding and Paul Jacobs were excused.

Joseph Nduka and Chuck Whalen were absent.

Minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Discussion on the Position for PR Marketing & Evangelization

We are missing opportunities to share the goodness of who we are within Cathedral. As the Mother Church we need to demonstrate our determination to grow our parish. Our staff is not large. With the addition of the right person, possessing a Public Relations degree and having a missionary focus disposition, we can take Cathedral to a higher level. Right now the Cathedral membership is less than half of what it used to be. This parish can be built up to what it once was through evangelization and outreach to the greater community, downtown people and Cathedral parishioners who do not attend Mass.

Discussion on the Undercroft Kitchen (and Hall) Proposal

It was suggested that we send out a questionnaire to Parishioners in regards to the updating of the kitchen and improvements to the Parish Hall. Also the undercroft refers to the entire basement area. The kitchen and gathering area in the undercroft will be renamed St. Joseph Hall.

Update on Men's and Women's Discipleship and Bible Studies

Women's Discipleship has been launched. Two women are starting discipleship groups. Men's Mission Discipleship Groups have been formed. John Eldredge talked about what

it means to be an authentic man. The book "Be Healed" by Bob Schuchts will be used to look at matters ^{of} healing wounds. Healing, Discipleship and Bible Study are covered.

Heightening the Cathedral's Profile within the Downtown Community

Cathedral is now part of Downtown Mainstreet, Inc. We are building relationships with downtown businesses. Hopefully providing tours of the Cathedral will spike an interest for people who have never been here before.

Moving forward with the Pictorial Directory

This project has been moved to the Fall. Harmann Studios has been suggested as the company to work with.

Update on the Vocations Committee

We are off to a good start with Mary Lehn working on this committee. Mary has some great ideas and we will be checking on what the Diocese has to offer.

Events

Patronal Feast Day Celebration May 4

Monica Leis and Elizabeth Decker are working on this event. Half of the items needed for that day have been donated.

All Parishioner Picnic at John Leslie's House to Welcome New Parishioners (July 20, Sunday, 3 pm)

This will be a pot luck. The new parishioners will be accompanied by a seasoned parishioner who will make the introduction of new members to other members of our congregation.

Beacon of Light Celebration September 14

The event will be held at Myrick Park. There will be simple games for kids, face painting, music, a basket raffle, and a pig roast. Fourteen men have volunteered to take shifts in watching the pig during the overnight roasting. A hospitality committee has been formed.

Family Camp at Camp Gray, Madison (early fall)

We are waiting to be notified as to what dates are available.

New Business

Parish Magazine Proposal

This magazine would be 6-8 pages and would cover Cathedral Parish news and events. Kevin would be in charge of selling ads and would also be tied in with the PR position (writing articles). More discussion will be held on the future of this idea. [NB: as of this time, this idea is no longer being considered.]

Men's Rosary Nights

Ted Skemp and Brock McMullen are leading a rosary night the 1st Tuesday of the month with a social in the Cathedral Annex afterwards.

Rebooting Men of St. Joseph All Men's Group

This group will meet once a quarter on a Monday night for Vespers, Talks, Discussions, and Fellowship. Monday, April 22 is the first meeting. There will be between three and four meetings held in the year. This group should be able to pull all of the smaller men's groups together.

Docent Program

We have some very good people in the Docent Program. This program is a great educational tool for all parishioners. Note cards on stock paper have been made for the Docents as a resource to use during the tours.

Pastoral Council Committee Reports

Social Concerns

Prayer for the Unborn at Planned Parenthood is going well. Between 2 and 10 people usually show up. The hours are 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday until Holy Thursday.

March for Life in January 2026

Deacon Kabat and Kevin Decker are working with Chris Rogers to have a bus for the trip. A pancake breakfast is planned to raise money to help cover the cost.

Warming Center Summer Plans

Services at the Warming Center are continuing throughout the summer. Hours are 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Front Door Ministry will also be there. A second collection will be held at Cathedral on the weekend of May 31/June 1 to help out the Warming Center.

Family Life

Elizabeth Ministry Apostolate Update

There will be a training held on Saturday, May 10 in St. Joseph's Hall for any women interested in joining this Apostolate.

Sacred Worship

Lent: Omitting Daily Stations of the Cross

It was decided that in the future, Lenten Stations of the Cross will be held only on Fridays during Lent. The times are 11:35 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. The 5:15 p.m. Stations will be followed by a soup supper.

Catholic Education

ACS Commission Report was tabled until June.

Other Committee Reports

Finance Council

The finance council is waiting to get back into the market to a greater degree. They will move slowly over the next 3 months and they are working with Trust Point.

Building and Grounds

Msgr. Gilles reported that the following projects are upcoming and have been discussed:

Glass will be installed in Kevin Decker's Door

A First Aid Station will be created in the Narthex

Repavement options of the parking lot

Front plaza granite replacement

Date of Next Meeting: June 10, 2025

Meeting adjourned with a prayer at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Ostervich