

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025; 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Hall

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

Introduction and welcome of the newly elected council members. All members introduced themselves and welcomed our newly elected members to the council. Msgr. Gilles referred to the “Diocese of La Crosse Norms For Parish Pastoral Councils” concentrating on the first section under “Introduction” and the fifth section under “Officers and Their Duties”. Msgr. explained that we operate by consensus and policy formation is our major function. Each member serves a 2 year term that is renewable twice which makes a total of 6 years. The next election of members will begin in June of 2027 enabling the new council to be seated in October.

Members present: Kevin Decker, Tammy Becker, Nick Harding, Deacon Chris Kabat, Mike Knapik, Nancy Rose, Cheri Rifenberg, Monica Leis, Paul Jacobs, Dominic Carstens, John Leslie, Johanna Schuh, Matthew Sherrill, Oliver Ash, Msgr. Gilles, and Lynne Ostervich.

The Minutes of the October 14, 2025 meeting were approved.

Report from Dominic Carstens

Dominic stated that his goal is to get souls to heaven. Public relations is part of his position along with teaching confirmation and revamping our website. Dominic wants to capture the gospel story happening at Cathedral and get that information back out to the parishioners so they will want to get involved. He is also reaching out to the downtown area.

Old Business

Update on Vocations Committee

Mary Lehn is a very active and dynamic head of this committee. The Family Vocations Kit has been traveling from family to family.

Cathedral's Downtown Profile

We have tours of Cathedral every Friday at 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. We have been getting our name out there and have been working with DMI to further coordinate our reaching out to people.

Assess Ministry Fair

The Ministry Fair will be held once a year. We need to organize ahead of time having a contact person for each area. Also notification in the bulletin about the Ministry Fair coming up will be helpful. A handout explaining each ministry may also help to interest parishioners. The next Ministry Fair might be on St. Joseph's feast day the first weekend of May.

Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP)

Kevin and Jackie are fine tuning the MSP. There has been positive feedback on the use of this program.

Changes in Front Door Ministry (FDM)

Referrals and people who have a connection with Cathedral are still being helped. Random people coming in off the street will be referred to Catholic Charities. Cathedral is also donating \$500 per month to the Warming Center along with volunteering to provide dinners on Monday nights.

Spring Pictorial Directory

Dominic will be in charge of the Pictorial Directory. Photos will be taken in house by Dominic. More information will follow.

Review:

All Saints Day Children's Celebration

Positive feedback was received about the celebration. There is a good chance that Cathedral will continue with the children's celebration.

Italian Dinner November 8

The dinner had positive reviews. The whole evening was very well done. Background music may be nice.

Volunteer Appreciation Event November 11

This evening was appreciated by everyone who was able to attend. The food was delicious. It is a possibility that next year the date will be moved to September or October in order to utilize the deck area of Castaways.

Downtown Main Street, Inc. (DMI) Holiday Fair at Cathedral Nov. 14

The organ music, hot chocolate, and bon fire were all enjoyed by visitors coming downtown. Next year we can use more volunteers to help out and receive guests. Fliers with Mass times, confession schedules, a welcoming verse could be handed out. Next year we will need to plan for the possibility of colder weather.

Events

Epiphany Open House

Will be held at the rectory on January 3, 2026. Sign up sheets for providing appetizers and sweets will be available at the Saturday and Sunday Masses.

Covenant Hearts at Castaways February 14, 2026. This is the fourth year for the Covenant Hearts Dinner. After last year's dinner four to five couples have been meeting every week. Speakers from the Winona Diocese will be Peter and Theresa Martin. Cost is \$100 per couple.

Steak Fry March 14, 2026

Hosted by the Men of St. Joseph. Menu includes Steak, baked potato, salad. Two grills and two chefs from Tom Sawyers will be cooking. A fundraising team will be formed to help with raffle tickets. 200 tickets will be available. All proceeds will stay at Cathedral.

Inspired By the Spirit Campaign

It is very likely we are not going to reach our goal. Updating of St. Joseph Hall and kitchen will eventually be done according to the percentage allotted specified in the case statement.

New Business

Future of *The Worker* Triennial Newsletter

Due to the untimely death of Steve Cahalan, the future of *The Worker* is questionable. At this time we will depend on our parish bulletin for information and let *The Worker* rest for now.

Rebuild My Church Initiative

Feedback from the Rebuild My Church Initiative will be published on the Diocese of La Crosse website.

Cathedral Vintage Cards

Msgr. Gilles is looking for parishioners with artistic ability to help create a note card featuring Saint Joseph the Workman Cathedral on the front.

Consideration of the Use of Drones for Cathedral PR

Discussion was held on the use of drones for taking photos to be used for public relations.

Proposed Annual Server Thank you and Formation Event

An event will be organized for the servers at Cathedral. Several ideas were put forward but no decision has been made yet.

Finance Council Report

The plaza paver replacement is slated to begin March 9. The parking lot project will begin July 1. The Diocese approved investing excess savings in the stock market for five years. The Finance Council has not made a decision on this yet.

Parish Council Committee Reports

ACS Education Report

Blessed Sacrament and Cathedral schools are both in need of repair. The options are to remodel both schools which will include Blessed Sacrament School to be turned over to the ACS system or to build an addition on to Cathedral School only. No decision has been made yet.

Social Concerns

Cathedral will have a pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 18 with all proceeds going to the Warming Center.

Family Life

The Family Life committee is looking at a new camp for families to attend this year. A Catholic Camp in Durand, WI seems to fit in with what the committee is looking for. More information will follow in the future.

Sacred Worship

The Sacred Worship Committee meets four times a year. They review Sacred Liturgies. Discussion of a Eucharistic Procession was also brought up. No decision was made.

Catholic Education: No report from this committee. Someone will be taking over this area.

Date of Next Meeting: February 10, 2026

The meeting was closed at 7:50 p.m. with a prayer led by Msgr. Gilles.