



Saint James
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MINUTES

Those in attendance: Father Michael Wimsatt, Jordan Cofer, Lou Edmondson, Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Jeff Lanz, Greg Schrecke, and Lorna Vertrees

Agenda Overview and Prayer Requests – Lorna

Father Quan has laryngitis this evening and will not be attending. Please keep Father Quan in prayer.

Opening Prayer and Pastor's Notes - Father Michael: Many events and activities are off to a good start at parish and school. Fr. Quan has made a smooth transition. The picnic was a proud evening for the parish.

Parish Pastoral Council Chair Reports -

- **Faith Formation – Lou.** The Middle School Youth Ministry (MSYM) kicked off and is going well. Retreats are upcoming, and conferences are planned in November. Annual Men of God 8th grade retreat for boys and dads/grandpas will take place in November. The High School Youth Ministry (HSYM) discipleship groups have started. There are eight groups this year between 9th-12th grade. There are currently 32 Confirmation candidates in Year 2, and 25 in Year 1. Confirmation retreats will take place on September 28th and December 6th. Baptisms: 6 pending, 21 year-to-date. Marriages: 8 pending; 3 year-to-date. Family Faith Formation kicked off with 34 families! They have an awesome team of volunteers, including six married couples. The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is thriving with lots of new interest (approximately 17 adults and 6 children regularly attending). The women's retreat is approaching and is almost at capacity.

- **Finance – Greg.** Collections are up, as well as tuition revenue. Administration expenses have shown an increase due to repairs and maintenance around the campus. We are very fortunate to be in a consistent position from year to year. We are keeping an eye on the

funding from covid that helps with preschool, as that has gone away. We will have some ground to make up but think we should be okay moving forward. We should have a relatively favorable accountability report.

- **Parish Life – Cheri.** Social Committee/Bereavement: Very few dinners since November. Bereavement is struggling when funeral Masses are scheduled later in the day because it is difficult to keep the food heated. Volunteers are having to man longer hours which is a challenge. Seeds of Kindness will have a group writing session on September 26. A parent recommended writing cards for First Communion recipients and will take that on. The Knights of Columbus will host a yearly appreciation for altar servers. Picnic: had a good crowd. We are waiting on picnic financial numbers from Scott. A picnic meeting for after-action discussion will take place next week. This was the 5th year, so the committee and event are running very well. We would like new members to join and start preparing to take over. We had a record-breaking silent auction. Over 5,000 raffle tickets were sold which is also a record.

- **School Board - Father Michael.** Kevin Blain has done a wonderful job growing and leading the Board. The Board meets quarterly, with committee groups meeting between. Enrollment as of late August is 462 students: up 130 kids from 2020. Athletics is growing.

- **Social Concerns – Jordan.** Jail ministry is going well. Haiti needs prayers. The blood drive averages about 37 donors each quarter. They are thankful for their volunteers and the co-chairs of the committee. Thanksgiving will start meeting mid-October.

- **Stewardship and Administration – Lorna.** Scott and Laurie are working with their new parish data system to make sure our Stewardship numbers are reliable. Pledges are looking great; however, participation rate is only close to 27%. A general information meeting for a committee to help plan for the 175th celebration (2026) will happen around November. In the spring, we will try to make smaller subcommittees (i.e. Social, Liturgical, Historical). Exciting things are planned like a possible refresh on logo, possibly offering apparel with the logo.

- **Worship – Jeff.** Trained 42 new servers for the school Masses- up to 69 servers. Server training will take place at the church soon. Servers have been staying longer instead of leaving after 8th grade. New

electronic ministry scheduler- working with Fabiola to help iron out the kinks. Advent is approaching, which will be a busy season for worship. Keith Barnes has taken over for Sacristans and it is working out well. Need more Sacristans for 10:00.

Closing Comments - Father Michael. Small projects are occurring around church campus, i.e. lights being replaced, cameras being installed.

Blessing – Father Michael

Next meeting: November 2024 – date to be determined.