SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
June 9, 2026
6:00-7:00 pm. Parish Office Basement

Saint James
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MINUTES

Attendance: Father Michael Wimsatt, Lorna Vertrees, Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Lou Edmondson, and Greg Schreacke

Agenda Overview and Prayer Requests - Lorna Vertrees

Opening Prayer and Pastor's Notes –

> Father Michael talked about Archdiocese summary of churches being combined in Louisville. Shorten how many Masses are available vs changing times to accommodate two Masses but one time. The shortage of priests coming into seminary does not help with retirement of priests; so the shortage. Louisville has several churches close in proximity. He spoke on Saint James Church Feasibility Study. The firm that is overseeing the study said Saint James Church had a good number of families to respond. The bulletin will have results printed soon.

Parish Pastoral Council Chair Reports

- Faith Formation -

Youth Ministry

- MSYM and HSYM summer calendars are active with a full schedule of youth events.
- 24 teens will attend the Steubenville Youth Conference this summer.
- Additional youth activities are planned throughout Elizabethtown.

Sacramental Preparation

- Confirmation and First Sacrament Family Meetings are ongoing.
- All sacramental preparation begins with a family meeting between Olivia, the child, and the parent.

Confirmation Process Update

- Beginning this year, any teen in grades 8–12 may present themselves for Confirmation once they have discerned readiness.
- Confirmation preparation begins September 2026.
- The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated September 2027.

Baptisms & Marriages

- 32 infant baptisms have been celebrated so far this year.
- 3 weddings are already scheduled for next year, with more anticipated.

Vacation Bible School

- VBS will take place June 22–26.
- Current registration: 133 participants and 83 volunteers.

Summer OCIA Series

- A summer OCIA series has been launched to support increased interest and maintain engagement before fall.
- Upcoming sessions: June 29 and July 20.

Fall OCIA Class

- 20 individuals are already registered for the August OCIA class.
- This is a larger group than last year, and historically the parish sees the highest influx in August.
- Continued growth is expected, reflecting strong spiritual movement within the parish.

Tribunal Cases

- Tribunal activity has increased significantly.
- More than 15 annulment cases are currently in process, with additional cases anticipated.
- Four individuals are awaiting Tribunal decisions and will be received into the Church once their cases conclude.

CWOSJ

- Meetings continue with strong attendance and meaningful discussion.
- Summer lunch gatherings will continue.

Bible Studies

- Adult Bible Studies continue to be strong.
- Catechism Study will reconvene in September.

- The next Bible Study, focusing on the Gospel of St. Luke, begins September.

Fraternus –

- Fraternus remains active and healthy.
- Jamie has provided historical content for the parish's 175th Anniversary book.

- Finance -

Greg Schreacke provided an update on the feasibility study for the building of the church. Emails were sent to the parish for review and feedback. The results will be presented to the Finance Committee at the July meeting.

The Parish Council reviewed and approved the budget for the upcoming year. Payroll will increase with the cost of living increase as well as having a full-time principal and assistant principal. The administration payroll will also increase with the addition of a full-time music minster. There is approximately $200,000 budgeting for HVAC unit upgrades and replacements at the school with $110,000 funded from the building fund and $90,000 from the general operating funds.

- Parish Life -

Knights of Columbus:
- Planning their installation of officers in July; and later this month will start planning their activities for the fall. The Knights will be helping with the picnic again this year.

Rosary Guild:
- Had a new member at their last meeting, with two more who are interested. They will continue to make mission rosaries to hit their goal of 250 (at about 200 currently) but will also focus on getting more rosaries to Gail for sale in the parish office. There are only a few left.

Cultural Diversity:
No activity to report.

Bereavement:
They have had several funerals in the last few months. Linda Bacher brags on her wonderful volunteer parishioners in this ministry. It is an important ministry to help those experiencing the death of a loved one.

- School Board – No report due to school in recess.

- Social Concerns – No report given.

- Stewardship and Administration – Lorna provided updates on the 175th Anniversary events; and the plans for the August community picnic.

- Worship – No report was given.

Closing Comments - Father Michael

Blessing - Father Michael

Next meeting: To be determined.