SAINT JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
September 8, 2026
6:00-7:00 pm. Parish Office Basement

Saint James
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MINUTES

Attendees: Father Michael Wimsatt, Father Kenny Nauert, Lorna Vertrees, Jordan Cofer, Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Lou Edmondson, Greg Schreacke, and Jeff Lanz.

Agenda Overview and Prayer Requests - Lorna Vertrees

Opening Prayer and Pastor's Notes - Father Michael

Parish Pastoral Council Chair Reports - Strong response to feasibility study; very promising for the future of the parish. Working on a document to address FAQs. Celebrations for St. James Feast Day, the community picnic, and back-to-school have been successful- an excellent summer for our parish.

-Faith Formation -Adult Bible Studies resume with Catechism Lunch & Learn on Wednesdays, and the Gospel of St. Luke offered Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. Registrations remain strong with 52 total participants and 12 newcomers joining the study groups.
Fraternus has restarted with strong attendance and continues to thrive. The chapter held its challenge ceremony last week and meets Thursday evenings in Batcheldor Hall through Memorial Day. The apostolate focuses on virtue, mentorship, and forming young men in authentic Christian discipleship.
Family Faith Formation and Middle School Youth Ministry begin September 9 with monthly family dinners and bilingual classes for parents and children.
High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation begins this week, with 25 teens being Confirmed September 13. The program now follows a September to September model. Eight small groups meet Sundays and Wednesdays. First Reconciliation and First Communion dates are set, with school numbers pending.
Marriage Preparation continues with six weddings/validations this fall and twelve planned for next year.
Women's Ministry and Men's Ministry are preparing for Lent retreats and Advent by Candlelight.

- Finance - Reduced parish debt by $305,100 this year. The number of students at the school continued to grow. Even though tuition rates increased, the overall total declined. We are continuing to manage our resources with careful attention to the needs of the parish.

- Parish Life - Forever Young Activities July-September 2026
Each meeting included a potluck dinner and presentation of door prizes which were provided voluntarily by members. Six new members were added in July and August.
July Program: Ben Sheroan – The New Enterprise Publisher; Charitable Donation to Greenspace.

August Program: Donnie Helstern – Regional Development Director-Kosair for Kids; Charitable Donation to Kosair for Kids
Also had guest Tristian Adams speak to the group about NET Ministries (National Evangelization Team). The mission is to challenge young Catholics to follow Jesus Christ and embrace a life of community in the Church.
September Program was a game of Name That Tune. The tunes were from the late 60's and 70's. The Charitable Donation will be made to NET Ministries. The September Meeting was scheduled to be a picnic at Freeman Lake but was moved back to Batcheldor Hall due to the heat wave.

Seeds of Kindness had its first meeting of the stewardship year last Thursday. Ministry members wrote cards to our homebound/assisted living parishioners. Included in cards were notes about favorite saints. Beautiful prayer cards for the homebound were donated by a parishioner. We will include these prayer cards in our Christmas cards that will be sent beginning of December.

School Board - August meeting has occurred where all personnel met. Kevin Blain's term is ending, but he will be succeeded by Courtney Fleck. The school is in overall great condition. Committees will begin their work next month. School has had a smooth first month.

- Social Concerns - SVdP Outreach: We continue to operate with a thin, aging core of volunteers. Of the nine parishioners who newly signed up to help at the Outreach, only one responded to emails and calls. We believe the non-responders meant that they would donate to, rather than work at, the Outreach. The Outreach and the Store are planning a separate joint recruitment effort on the weekend of the feast of St Vincent de Paul; the last weekend this month. Hopefully, we can obtain a few new volunteers.

Blood Drive: The blood drive is looking good but we could use a couple new volunteers since we have lost several over the past year. We would like to thank the Health and Wellness Committee for sending several of their members to help us out the last two drives.

Thanksgiving: The committee had their first meeting and preparations are underway for the 2026 Thanksgiving meal.

Homebound: Things are going well. A solid group is taking turns covering the hospital and going out into the community.

- Stewardship and Administration - Great year for the picnic. 175 Events are still occurring. Event at Churchill Downs is coming up and will be announced in the bulletin.

- Worship - Art and Environment- Discussion on Saint Joseph Statue – should we repair or replace statue? Elaine Pike has a group interested in making new altar cloths. Fall outing with servers and KofC being planned. Six servers are being Confirmed on Sunday. Preston Harrell is doing a wonderful job, we are thankful he is here.

Closing Comments - Father Michael

Blessing – Father Kenny

Next meeting: TBD