

Approved ST THERESA PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2026

Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world

St Theresa Fellowship Hall

Present: Fr. Jordan Berghouse, Fr. Denny Jacob, Kathy Scherbarth, Darlene Sterzinger, Brad Berghouse, Chris Suchomski (via phone), Mary Bishop, Patrice Farrell, Claudette Krestan, Jodie Kujawa, Erin Kupkovitz, Mary Markham, Greg Wallace

Excused: Sean Hegarty

Opening Prayer: Fr. Jordan met us in church to start with Adoration and reflection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Committee Reports

- Liturgy: Claudette reported that the meeting was held the previous week. Topic: how to get Communion up to the choir loft when it is just the organist and cantor. Suggestion is to have sacristans or parish ministers to assist.
- Faith Formation: Jodie stated that there will not be another meeting until the end of summer. A replacement was found for the director of children's formation. Fr. Jordan is happy that the person was found so quickly. With three (3) priests available, there will be more opportunities to be present with the faith formation classes. Fr. Jordan also announced that SMP will have a seminarian, Spencer, living at St. James for the next year.
- Stewardship: Patrice said there were no updates, but there was last call for Time & Talent responses to be submitted. Historically, this was one of the lowest returns. But more people are showing up to assist. Planning is starting for the Welcome Fr. Tuttle Fellowship Weekend, June 27th & 28th. It is the same weekend as Kettle Moraine Days. We remembered Fr. Jordan's first experience with the parade and Potato Booth and how welcoming it was. Mary Markham is working on the details, but stated this will be hosted by Pastoral Council, so we should look for announcements regarding refreshments

and assistance. Mary also asked if Fr. Denny would be willing to attend the parade and march over to the Potato Booth.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chris Suchomski shared that Sean Hegarty has offered to build (2) picnic tables to be put under the trees by the school parking area. Families will be able to gather after Masses. It was noted that the tables would have to be moved when there is mowing.

Joint Parish Councils discussion: Fr. Jordan explained more about the previously mentioned Joint PCs. Trustees from the parishes, and other leaders from St. James and St. Peter are interested to see this happen. The August meeting, which we have met as the 3 parish councils, will be to have ideas of how to start. The hope is that with the Fall meeting schedule, there will be ONE Pastoral Council with the collaboration of the various individual Committees. The intent is not for it to be an Administrative Council but rather having the sharing of Ministries and other events. Finance Councils will remain as is, separate for each parish.

HOW DO WE START: Communications, explanations and updates should not just be in the Bulletin; Constant Contact or Flock Note distribution to emails will give more information to more people. Communication Update would be a brief account of what the combined group is doing. For example: SVDP, Jail Ministry, Community Service/Stewardship

WHO WOULD BE ON THE COMMITTEE: As terms expire and people drop off before inviting new members, those interested would join a committee and get to know more about the PC.

Reactions: Chris S-reduces the number of meetings for Fr. J

Kathy S-value in understanding the workings and talent of each of the parishes.

Fr. J-added vitality; trust the interior conviction; use of joint committees: Liturgy, Stewardship; Faith Formation, etc. It would be a Mission Based community working together. Father said he spoke with Mary Markham about being the Chairperson, with all her experience with the Deanery leadership team. She accepted the position.

Kathy S added that there already is collaboration with the SMP ladies. The Advent by Candlelight program will now rotate with the 3 parishes with St. T's having the 2026 Advent program, then St. James and St. Peters.

Fr. Denny: there is more collaboration and community support. An example is Racine has 8 PCs that merged with a committee of 80 people, That is what the councils desired.

Changes that will happen: instead of St. J an St T being in the Waukesha Deanery, which we have been actively involved, we will be joining St Peter's in the Walworth Deanery. New people, new ideas and concerns. We will need Deanery Representatives to get more details.

Now we need to compile ideas/suggestions to bring to the August meeting or send to either Fr. Jordan or Chris.

With the terms ending for Mary Bishop and Patrice Farrell, Fr. Jordan and the Pastoral Council thanked them for their service, spirit and commitment to the parish as representatives.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Denny led us in prayer.

Meeting ended at 7:18 pm

Next Meeting: August 20, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Darlene Sterzinger

