

## St. John the Evangelist Parish

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### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Minutes

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio  
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio  
Marie Bardswich – St. John's  
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's  
Barb Pineau – St. John's

Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John's  
James Murphy – St. John's  
Sheila Lapierre – St. John's  
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's **ABSENT**

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 4th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER We prayed a decade of the Rosary for the success of the Year of Jubilee in our Parish and in the Universal Church.

**Following this, the PPC met to discuss the following pastoral issues:**

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Bishop's pastoral visit: **January 25 – February 2, 2025**
- (2) Parish dinner on November 3<sup>rd</sup> – an evaluation on how it went
- (3) Christmas Memorial Flowers
- (4) Advent Giving Tree
- (5) Parish breakfast – set for Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – Knights of Columbus hosting
- (6) Christmas movie day/dinner – date moved to Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- (7) Jubilee Year – December 24, 2024 to January 6, 2026 – ideas for celebration in our local parishes
- (8) Distribution of the balance of Divine Mercy donations
- (9) Cost comparison of glass candles vs plastic inserts

#### ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (10) Social Concerns, Worship, Future Planning, Youth, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation & Spirituality
- (11) Parish Financial Update

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Re: (1) The following itinerary was agreed upon, with the expectation that there will be additions and changes made as the time of the Bishop's visit nears:

A reception will follow all 3 Sunday Masses on January 25/26. It will take place in the entranceway of each Church. The Sunday Mass in Skead will be moved to 8:30am to allow more time for the Bishop there, before driving to Garson.

Will visit St. John's School – to be arranged by Fr. Michael.

Will meet with the Parish Pastoral Council at our regular meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Will meet with the Parish Finance Committee – date and time to be determined.

Will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 4 youth of the Parish on January 30<sup>th</sup> (date is tentative) at 7pm. A reception to follow the celebration in the entranceway of the Church.

Will visit the Garson Foodbank on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am (staff meeting).

Will visit some of the elders of our respective communities – Fr. Michael to arrange this with the older parishioners to be visited. Will also visit some of the sick/homebound parishioners.

If the CWL wishes, will meet with either their Executive or with all its members – CWL executive to decide if and how they wish to meet.

Will participate in our second annual Parish Appreciation Dinner on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Regarding that dinner, we will invite the Knights of Columbus to serve the buffet, with the food coming from the Caruso Club, dessert provided by the same parishioner as last year (tentative) and Barb donating door prizes. Fr. Michael will look after the wine and the insurance needed to serve it. Doors will open at 5pm and dinner will begin at 6pm.

Re: (2) All the feedback was positive. There was a good mix of food. An activity worth repeating.

Re: (3) The recipient of the Christmas Flower Memorial donations had already been decided at our previous meeting: The Pregnancy Center & Infant Food Bank.

Re: (4) All 39 tags have been taken from the Giving Tree. They represent 13 individuals in 4 families, so 3 gifts for each person. PPC members who are able will wrap the gifts following Mass on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Other volunteers are most welcome to join us.

Re: (5) The next Parish breakfast will be following Mass on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be hosted by the Knights of Columbus. The Parish will cover the cost of the food. No admission will be charged; a freewill offering will be accepted, and whatever is given will be donated to the Garson Foodbank.

Re: (6) The date of the Christmas movie/dinner has been moved to Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The movie (Heaven is for Real) will begin at 3pm and a pizza dinner will follow. No charge for anyone. Fr. Michael will obtain insurance so that wine can be served.

Re: (7) The following decisions were made for the Jubilee Year of Hope which begins on Christmas Eve and continues through to the Feast of Epiphany on January 6, 2026, noting that there may be additional activities proposed and/or promoted as the Jubilee unfolds:

The Jubilee Year Prayer (bookmark) will be distributed to all Parishioners, and everyone will be encouraged to use it in their personal, family and group prayers throughout the Jubilee.

The Jubilee Prayer, at the Bishop's request, will be prayed at every Mass. In this Parish, it will form the Collect of the Universal Prayer. Fr. Michael will print the prayer on cards and the Ministers of Hospitality will hand these out to each person as they enter the Church, gathering them up after each celebration.

The Bishop's Pastoral Letter "Entering into Hope" will be distributed in the following ways: the bulletin will provide a link to it; copies will be available in the entranceways of our Churches; Fr. Michael will print a large print version for anyone who asks (the distributed copies have a relatively small print). Everyone will be encouraged to read this excellent letter.

The Rosary will be prayed before the first Sunday Mass (Saturday night) throughout the Jubilee. This Rosary of Hope will begin at 3:50pm, ending at around 4:20pm. Marie will organize this, starting on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Banners will be purchased and displayed throughout the Jubilee Year.

Parishioners will be encouraged to write down and submit their answers to "What gives me Hope?" and/or "I am grateful for...". Forms for this will be made available in the bulletin, as well as on cards in the entranceways of our Churches. The answers will be published in the bulletin throughout the Jubilee Year. If warranted by the response, all the answers will be published in some form of booklet "Witness to Hope" at the end of the Jubilee Year.

Possibility of a pilgrimage to one of Canada's National Shrines. Fr. Michael will determine, via a survey, if there is any interest in this in the Parish.

Re: (8) To date, the contributions received through the Divine Mercy Candles are about \$900 less than last year. After paying our contributions to Chalice for our 2 adopted children, there is about \$1,100 remaining. It was decided to donate all of what remains to the Garson Foodbank.

Re: (9) The cost of a glass vigil candle is \$6.28 vs. the cost of a plastic held insert which is \$2.38. The plastic inserts cannot be recycled, and so are landfill waste. The glass candles are refilled. Switching to glass will cost the parish roughly \$1,000 more each year, depending on how many candles are purchased. No clear consensus was expressed. Since we just received a new delivery of plastic held inserts, and they should last into Lent/Easter, we will defer making a decision. We have the option of switching at any time, and then reverting back to the plastic inserts if we choose to do that later, so no decision 'locks us in'. Fr. Michael will determine if there is a less expensive glass candle that we can use, and James will investigate the option of a wax insert that does not entail the use of a plastic container.

Re: (10) The Garson Foodbank serves about 381 clients. On December 14/15, a bus will be parked in the Foodland parking lot, and customers will be encouraged to fill it with donated food. For December, Foodland is matching monetary donations made through them to the Foodbank. Barb will determine if we can take advantage of this with our parish donation.

Re: (11) Myron distributed a spreadsheet showing our financial situation to the end of October. He also included a new sheet comparing our revenues and expenditures for the last 4 years. Both show us to be in good financial shape, and there are no obvious concerns going forward.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 8:00pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 29th when the Bishop is here - 6pm in the Parish Hall.