

St. John the Evangelist Parish

255 Church Street, P.O. Box 510

Garson, Ontario P3L 1S6

Phone: (705) 693-2032 Fax: (705) 693-9725 Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

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
Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John's

James Murphy – St. John's
Sheila Lapierre – St. John's
Murielle Denis – St. John's
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's **ABSENT**
John Robert – St. Bernardine's

John attended the meeting by phone connection from Midhurst, ON.

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 3rd at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER We prayed a decade of the Rosary for the Intentions of our Holy Father.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) New PPC members - Welcome
- (2) Parish Fall Event – Dinner on October 23rd – A review
- (3) Parish Fall Event – Potluck dinner on December 12th?
- (4) Parish Spring Event – Parish Breakfast
- (5) Parish Photo Album – A review
- (6) Christmas Memorial Flowers
- (7) Advent Giving Tree – Volunteers for gift wrapping
- (8) RCIA

NEW BUSINESS:

- (9) Appreciation Dinner – Friday, February 13, 2026 (tentative until agreed upon)
- (10) Christmas Movie Night – Friday, January 2nd
- (11) Distribution of balance of Divine Mercy Donations
- (12) 2026 Calendars

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (13) Social Concerns, Worship, Future Planning, Youth, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation & Spirituality, Evangelization
 - (14) Parish Financial Update
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Re: (1) Fr. Michael welcomed our newest PPC members, Murielle Denis and John Robert.

Re: (2) All the feedback received from the dinner was positive.

Re: (3) It was decided that we would proceed with a Parish pot luck dinner on Friday, December 12th. This is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and will also serve as a celebration of our Parish's 90th Anniversary.

Re: (4) The Knights of Columbus have tentatively agreed to host a Spring Parish breakfast. The date is to be determined.

Re: (5) All the feedback received from the Parish Jubilee Album project was positive.

Re: (6) All the money received in donations from the Christmas Memorial Flowers will be donated by the Parish to the Pregnancy Care Center and Infant Food Bank.

Re: (7) All the tags for housecoats and pajamas have been taken. Donations of gift cards (Amazon/Netflix) and other items listed in the bulletin can still be made. All the larger items, save for the 3D printer, have been donated. We will wrap the gifts following Mass on Sunday, December 21st. Fr. Michael will deliver them on Monday, December 22nd.

Re: (8) We have 2 candidates for Baptism currently in the RCIA. There are about 8 or 9 attendees at each Wednesday night session. We are currently watching Bishop Barron's 10 part series "Catholicism". Each session is open to everyone, whether they have previously attended or not.

Re: (9) The appreciation dinner will be on Friday, February 13th, following the same format as previous dinners.

Re: (10) The Christmas Movie night is confirmed for Friday, January 2nd. Fr. Michael has not yet previewed the movie "The Sparrows", but that is tentatively what will be shown. This is a family friendly event (wine is available, however). John offered to send Fr. Michael a list of DVDs he has in his collection for future reference.

Re: (11) To date, \$1,617.00 has been received through our Divine Mercy candles. Of that, \$1,308.00 has been donated to Chalice to support our two sponsored children. Whatever balance remains at year end will be donated to the Garson Food Bank. John will inquire in Skead about having St. Bernardine's also donating the candle money received there to charity.

Re: (12) Fr. Michael has purchased enough 2026 Catholic Faith Calendars as gifts for all parishioners (PPC members received them tonight). These are Canadian calendars, and so give the accurate Church practice for our country. This is rare, as most catechetical resources are taught from an American perspective.

Re: (13) Some discussion ensued regarding a proposal from St. Bernardine's to send a direct mail out to every household in Skead. Initially, the proposal involved an invitation to our Christmas Mass.

At the end of the discussion, it was decided to form an ad hoc committee which John will chair. He will appoint several other members, whose task will be to determine the best way to invite, through direct mailout, parishioners to return to the practice of their faith during Lent and leading up to Easter in 2026. The PPC will wait for this process to unfold before making a decision about replicating it in Garson/Falconbridge.

Marie gave some reflections regarding the Jubilee Rosary on Saturday nights. It will be concluded following the Epiphany celebration early in January. There was mixed feedback in terms of numbers attending and the distraction of parishioners coming in for Mass. However, since it was a spiritual exercise, it was also noted that the positive results of this prayer may not ever be known in their entirety. The Rosary on Thursday mornings will continue.

Sheila mentioned that the Garson Food Bank has seen a significant increase in the number of clients needing their service. The Parish will continue to support them in every way possible.

John mentioned the work required (granular A and grading) on the parking lot in Skead. He will work on this over the winter and hopefully have it completed in the Spring. Comments about the state of the parking lot in Garson led to a reminder that the lot across from the Church is owned by the city. We do plow it in the winter, but we have no arrangements with the city that would permit us to use it in any formal way.

Re: (14) There are no financial issues of concern for either of our Parishes. John will speak to Colette about the Financial Report to the parish at the end of each year. No other questions or concerns were raised.

Our meeting ended with a prayer, led by Fr. Michael, at 7:40pm.

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