

## 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  
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

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER We prayed a decade of the Rosary for the needs of all our Parishioners.

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

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Parish Fall Event – Potluck dinner on December 12<sup>th</sup> – A review
- (2) Parish Spring Event – Parish Breakfast
- (3) Advent Giving Tree – Volunteers for gift wrapping – A review
- (4) Appreciation Dinner – Friday, February 13, 2026
- (5) Christmas Movie Night – Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – A review
- (6) Divine Mercy (Candle) Donations – Skead
- (7) Direct parish mail out - Skead
- (8) Parking lot - Skead

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- (9) 2025 Parish Financial Report – draft is attached
- (10) 2026 Parish Budget - draft is attached

#### ONGOING BUSINESS:

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

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Re: (1) All the comments/feedback was positive. No suggestions for improvements.

Re: (2) The Knights of Columbus are aiming for a Parish BBQ in late Spring (June). Sonya Arcand has offered to host a Sunday Parish breakfast following Mass in the Easter Season, as long as she is provided help. Help is assured, so she is given the green light to proceed on a Sunday of her choice.

Re: (3) All the comments/feedback was positive. No suggestions for improvements. If L'Arche is interested in being our partner again this Christmas, we would be happy to work with them.

Re: (4) We will set up on Friday, following Chit Chat. The Knights will pick up the food, serve and clean up afterwards. Sonya will provide the desserts. The theme is "90 Years" (St. John's anniversary). Marie will look after the coffee/tea. Table cloths will be used. A table will be set up for name cards. Parish Council will provide welcome.

Re: (5) All the comments/feedback was positive. No suggestions for improvements.

Re: (6) John indicated this seems to be acceptable in Skead, and will approach Colette regarding the plan to donate the candle money received to the Garson Foodbank each year.

Re: (7) John distributed a draft copy of the direct mailout proposed for the community of Skead (which will include an area in Garson due to the way Canada Post works). One small typo was noted. There are almost 700 addresses included, for a mailing cost of \$128.00. The cost of printing the colour copies will be the most significant part of the expense. This evangelization effort will focus on the Seasons of Lent and Easter, encouraging people to participate. Everyone was supportive of the idea, which will be implemented immediately. We will review the results afterwards with a view to deciding if this is an effort worth repeating in Garson/Falconbridge.

Re: (8) This proposed project is still pending, as more information is being gathered. The hope is to move forward with the leveling of the parking lot as early as possible in the Spring.

Re: (9) Approved by everyone, the report will be published and inserted in this Sunday's bulletin. The report for Skead is to be published there at the same time, or soon after.

Re: (10) The 2026 budget was acceptable to everyone. There are no significant or out of the ordinary expenses planned for this year.

Re: (11) Fr. Michael proposed we host meatless soup suppers on the Fridays of Lent at 6pm, preceding the Stations of the Cross at 7pm. All in favour of this community building social.

Fr. Michael proposed we host a St. Joseph's Feast Day chili dinner on March 19<sup>th</sup>. All in favour of this additional community event.

Fr. Michael distributed a chart showing average Mass attendance/year over the past 14 years. Although not approaching the attendance we had pre-pandemic, the numbers are ticking upwards. John will see about providing a similar chart for the Parish in Skead.

Re: (12) Myron distributed a spreadsheet showing the full year financials for St. John's Parish in 2025, with a comparison to our budget. There were some questions for clarification regarding some line items, but no issues of concern. We are controlling our expenses quite well, and so were able to cover even the unbudgeted cost of the kneelers from our current account.

Our meeting ended with a prayer, led by Fr. Michael, at 7:30pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 8th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.