

St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish
SJB Parish Pastoral Council Committee Meeting Minutes
BRING PEOPLE – BODY, MIND AND SOUL – TO CHRIST

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

Call to Order: 6:59 pm

Prayer: Father Paul Ruwe

PPC Members: Dave Haller; Doreen Heuser; Sylvia Ruthven; Louis Egbert; Kathy Nocks; Teresa Meyer; Hank Menninger; Mary White; Roxann Rybolt; Logan Montgomery; Pete Hebauf

Previous PPC Meeting Minutes: October Meeting Minutes have been approved and distributed. Motion to approve D. Heuser; 2nd H. Menninger

Father began by correcting a slight misstatement from October's PPC meeting. He originally stated that when cantors are not volunteers from SJB, they do not get paid when they do Mass. He stated this is wrong. We sometimes use paid cantors when we are unable to find volunteers. It was a misunderstanding and he wanted to correct it. L. Egbert asked if this was a church rule. Father stated it is not and it varies with other parishes. However, it is included in the budget. P. Hebauf asked if other musicians get paid. Father stated only when they are brought in for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. He stated this is also budgeted.

Staff Report: J. Schaefer, Director of Religious Education. He began by explaining there are 142 people in PSR grades 1 through 8, and it is going well in the morning and evening. //He talked about the youth group and the Young Adults and how he tries to hold functions where they interact to get the younger students to know what high school and youth group will be when they move from 8th grade. //He just finished organizing and hosting a NET Confirmation Retreat that had great feedback from the kids. They are more interested in attending Adoration than before. //He talked about taking the Youth Ministry Teens to a LIFELINE event which was successful. He stated the Youth Ministry and Young Adults just had a Glow Volleyball game which included T. Palmer. It was a fun event. //He stated he plans these mixed events a couple times a year. //The Youth Group is volunteering for Bountiful Hearts Luncheons, Rosary Rally and also Reach Out Pregnancy functions. P. Hebauf asked how many were in the Youth Group. J. Schaefer stated a core group of four or five, but when they have various activities there are about 50 to 60 combined with younger kids. He stated last year the Youth Group lost quite a few who went on to graduate. D. Heuser asked if Confirmation would be held at the Cathedral. He stated it will be held at St. Johns on February 12 with the Bishop in attendance. He stated there were four young children attending OCIA who will be brought into the church at Easter time next year. D. Haller asked why these young children are in OCIA instead of PSR. J. Schaefer and Father explained when the children get past the age of reasoning (second grade) they are included in OCIA. There was some discussion about was this a new church rule. Father stated it's been going on for more than 20 years.

Pastor's Report: Father began by stating he is looking forward to Thanksgiving because it's his favorite holiday. He stated our parish Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be held at 9 am. He then noted that Advent begins the weekend following. The parish's Advent Penance liturgy for communal availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held the first Wednesday in December, 12-3. at 7pm and six other priests will join Father Paul. //Monday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, a holy day of obligation. There will be three parish Masses (7 am, 12 Noon and 7 pm). Father Bill Dormann has offered to cover the 7 pm Mass since Father Ruwe will be celebrating the morning school Mass in addition to the 7:30 am and Noon Masses. Christmas Masses will follow our recent schedule: Christmas Eve 3 pm and 5 pm, Midnight and Christmas morning at 9 am and 11 am. //He then talked about Beacons of Light and the annual report shared with the Archdiocese. He has not heard any formal comment or feedback; however, there has been some informal feedback from our liaison. He noted that other single parish families have between 2,500 and

4,000 parishioners and, therefore, have a much bigger staff than ours. He stated some parameters for Beacons of Light in regard to staff titles are not possible for SJB to complete because of the smaller staff and overlapping responsibilities. He listed a few positions SJB does not have (e.g., Director of Evangelization/Director of Worship) because two people on staff or a group, including himself, share responsibility for these areas. He stated Phase 4 for Beacons of Light parameters might not look the same for SJB as other single parish families. He noted the Mission components of Beacons of Light required and engagement with parishioners and the 99 Experience with T. Palmer was one engagement with these parameters. There are other mission programs SJB may follow. Father believes the SJB Parish Leadership Team is following and working toward the Beacons of Light goals as they apply to us. The current plan is to continue working on Beacons of Light goals more heavily in 2026 after Advent/Christmas season. L. Egbert asked if the Archdiocese has been more lenient on SJB due to the smaller size of our single family parish. Father stated the process is generally going to be a bit more aggressive in the coming year for efforts at consolidation or amalgamation, but as Beacons' Mission components have already been stressed, SJB is working within the parameters of Beacons of Light, although at our own pace. L. Egbert then asked if Father felt Beacons of Light has hurt the church. Father stated overall the numbers continue to be stable, though there has been movement of parishioners from families of parishes that have made necessary adaptations to those parishes who have not or have been slow to do so.

Business Manager Report: J. Siemer stated the collections for last couple of months have been down, but not for any particular reason. H. Menninger asked the problem with collections was because of less people. Father Paul and J. Siemer stated there is a core group that is giving less (probably due to price increases for households) than they usually give. However, they both believe this will change with the November/December collections when some of the yearly giving comes in. Father and J. Siemer have discussed the budget based on last year's and agree it is a bit more aggressive than last year. D. Haller asked should Father reach out to the parish for more money. Father stated it is not necessary at this time. R. Roll asked if the Bulletin would have the article concerning year end giving due to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). J. Siemer stated he will place this information in the Bulletin toward the end of November. // He then went on with financial detail for September. September collections are below budget. Other Income is favorable to budget. September expenses are favorable to budget. The church surplus was favorable to budget. Year to Date (YTD) collections are less than budgeted. YTD Other Income was more than budgeted. YTD expenses are less than budgeted. The church's YTD surplus is unfavorable to budget. //School: September revenue is more than budgeted. J. Siemer stated this is due to Ed Choice. September expenses are less than budgeted. The school's September deficit is favorable to budget. YTD school income is over budget. YTD expenses are favorable to budget. The YTD school deficit is also favorable to the budget. //Total Church, School and Cafeteria for September: There is a surplus which is favorable to budget. YTD, there is a deficit which is also favorable to budget. //Statement of Financial Position: Cash and Investments on the balance sheet increased due to the monthly surplus, quarterly interest payments and change in value of investments. R. Roll asked what the interest is on the investment at the Archdiocese. J. Siemer stated around 3.25%. // Church: All pew kneelers supports have been installed. //Building and Grounds: Replaced AC unit in teacher's lounge; repaired malfunctioning heating unit in the new church; repaired leaking and bad pump on the boiler in the rectory. //School: Preparing for the USDA National School Lunch Program audit of the cafeteria. Determination of tuition and fees for the 2026/2027 school year. //Other Turkey Dinner preparations; A question was asked about the success of the Turkey Dinner. J. Siemer stated it was about the same as 2024 with a net of between \$10,000 and \$11,000. R. Rybolt asked if the Craft Show was included. J. Siemer stated it was; however, the booth fee was not that significant. //He then went on to talk about the baseball fields and the work being done, i.e. installing fencing and dugouts. P. Hebauf asked if Phase II of the church would have any effect on the athletic fields. Father stated Phase II would have no effect and that is why the athletic fields were allowed to be moved forward. **Near-Term Activities (Underway/Planned):** Finance: October Reconciliation; Church: Review security; Buildings and Grounds; Paint exterior of parish office; gutter replacement on rectory; School: Review security. Possible bathroom partition

replacement. // **How has he impacted the STJB Vision this month ? (Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ?)** Continuous focus on maintaining a financially stable parish through adequate collections, expense control, balance sheet management and budgetary accuracy. Enhancing infrastructure through effective use of donated funds.

Pastoral Associate Minister: T. Palmer reports OCIA Penitential Rite was held on Sunday, 10-19 at the 11:15 am Mass. This is the final step prior to the reception into the church or completing initiation into the church by the OCIA candidates. //New server training was completed with 10 new servers being used between the three Sunday Masses. The 99 Experience is finished and will be followed by a book study in January 2026. Deacon Ron led the Pet Blessing on 10-4. //Technology: All devices that needed to be upgraded have been replaced. Phase II will be re purposing the older machines in non-critical locations. Catholic Social Media for the parish is up and available for use. This allows SJB to post to FB, Instagram and Twitter at the same time. It also provides content from other sources, including the Archdiocese, that SJB can use on our social media. **Near-Term Activities (Underway/Planned):** Remembrance of beloved dead was held on 11-1 at 4 pm Mass; Glow Volleyball between Young Adults and High School Youth was held on 11-2; OCIA Spring Group will receive Sacraments of initiation on 11-16; November 23 the OCIA Fall Group will participate in the Rites of Acceptance and Welcome; Advent Study begins 11-24. SJB will be using Waiting Well by Ascension Press; design Parish Christmas Card. **How have I/we Impacted the STJB Vision this month: Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ?** One evening after OCIA, there was a non-Catholic father of four waiting on the curb outside church. She listened to him, and they discussed many things. She shared that God loves us even during our messiness. When she first encountered him, he was very down, by the end of their conversation, he was in a better place.

Music Director: P. Wickliffe reports Schola season has begun and been staffed to capacity for this season. //A&E more or less coordinated for Christmas. All decorations are ordered between AJ Rahn and Lohmans. ;// Advent candles and wreath ordered. Memorial requests have been placed in the parish Bulletin. Two of the four have been purchased. //Music budget is on target. //All subs and cantors are secured for two weekends in November. //Brass ensembles identified (same as 2026/26) and music planned through Christmas 2025. Finishing all arrangements and disseminate to ensemble. Speaker agreements have been sent out, Wedding planning and liturgies going well. Planned to February 2026; to await updated 2026 schedule. // Begin learning new organ repertoire. // Blake Callahan is confirmed continuance for piano tuning. //Reach out choral “ringers” for Christmas, Confirmation, Easter, provided budget. // Keep eye on copyright for YouTube licensing. // Continued weekly update of parish website. //Continue networking for possible future concert events. //Possible change in schola schedule. **Near-Term Activities (Underway/Planned):** Wedding planning and liturgies going well. Planned to February 2026; to await updated 2026 schedule. // Begin learning new organ repertoire. // Blake Callahan is confirmed continuance for piano tuning. //Reach out choral “ringers” for Christmas, Confirmation, Easter, provided budget. // Keep eye on copyright for YouTube licensing. // Continued weekly update of parish website. //Continue networking for possible future concert events. //Possible change in schola schedule. **How have I/we Impacted the STJB Vision this month: Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ?** Good communication and going the extra mile for a community that deserve the best we as a staff of servant leaders can give represents the call of Christ to serve God by serving his people.

Principal: Nichole Herrmann reports Teachers and students prayed the Living Rosary during the month of October. // Fifth through eighth grade students participated in the Body Matters program through Pregnancy Center West. // all students were taught the Circle of Grace lessons required by the AOC on safe environment. // Completed all AOC and State of Ohio beginning of year reports. // Fall break from 10-13 thru 15. // Worked with Frontier signs to create new double-sided decals for all exterior doors to instruct visitors to report to the officer as well as reminding students not to open the door for anyone or prop the door open. // Implemented new Raptor visitor management system as recommended by AOC. **Near Term Activities (Underway/Planned):** End

of 1st Trimester; Parent/teacher conferences; current family re enrollment for 26/27; AOC principal Leadership Summit; Thanksgiving Break. **How has she impacted the STJB Vision this month: Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ?** We have impacted the vision this month by giving our students the experience of not only praying the Rosary together, but to be physically a part of the representation of the beads.

Director of Religious Education: See Staff report above

Parish Life: Ongoing activities as well as participated in the Special Anniversary celebrations

Social Action Committee: K. Nocks reported the Knights of Columbus handled the Bountiful Hearts dinner. They had 143 neighbors attend. //Feed the children received \$2,500 from the American Legion which allowed them to add more children to bring the total children being helped to 50. //The Christmas distribution of food will be held on 12-17.

SVdP: R. Roll reports the Fifth Sunday collection is coming up; the coat drive will be held between 9 am and Noon on 12-13. Bins for coats will be at St. Johns church on 12-12; the SJB school is holding a pantry collection; the Sharing Tree will be up and tags placed. Pick up of gifts will be on 12-23; SVdP will be giving ten families with at least three children turkey Christmas dinners to be picked up and delivered.

Old Business: D. Haller stated there were no questions at the November PPC Meet and Greet. He then stated there would be no Meet and Greet in December. However, they will resume in January 2026. P. Hebauf talked a bit about holding a dinner for new parishioners. K. Nocks suggested the new parishioners not only receive a written invitation, but a follow up phone call. D. Haller agreed. Father will bring this idea to the Parish Staff and discuss who should be involved and frequency of such a dinner.

New Business: D. Haller suggested PPC bring food for a Christmas gathering to the next PPC Meeting (12-16) L. Montgomery will handle the paper products. Father suggested we attend a little early to enjoy food before and after the meeting.

Adjournment: Motion: M. White; 2nd D. Heuser

Prayer: Father Ruwe

Submitted by: S. Ruthven 11-18-25