Council Minutes

St. Therese Parish

Date | time June 10, 2025 @ 7pm | Meeting called to order by Pat Moynihan

# In Attendance

Fr. Gregory- Pastor

Pat Moynihan- Chair

JoAnn Holaday

Karl Ittner- Vice Chair

Kay Campbell- Scribe

Sarah Linsmeyer

Walter Priest

# Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed for the May meeting. A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes. The motion was accepted first by Karl and seconded by JoAnn. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

# Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

The council member originally assigned to provide opening prayers was unexpectantly unable to attend the meeting and Kay agreed to step in. The opening prayer was inspired by Ephesians 4:25 and was sourced by Xavier University.

# Pastor’s Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

Mass Attendance: Fr. Gregory reported that mass attendance was up again this past weekend, and the council shared observations that suggest that the increased attendance could be a trend. Fr. Gregory mentioned that the number of weddings planned, that he will officiate, is higher than usual. Discussion included a recent funeral for a well-known and respected parishioner, Doris Melancon. The funeral attendance was also considerable in number. Fr. Gregory also shared that he received positive feedback regarding the vibrancy of our parish community. The council also learned that we will be losing a parish family, the Savages. They have decided to relocate to the Church of the Visitation due to family considerations.

Parish Litnics: The first litnic of the summer season occurred on June 6th at Pat Kurovic’s home. Fr. Gregory noted that it was well attended

# Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

New Pelagians, starting with paragraph 57 and stopping at the end of paragraph 60. This evening’s reading focused on the cautionary tale of how some people think that faith and worship are measured by their efforts, their compliance with the rules and each person’s abilities. A member of the council noted that this approach leaves few opportunities for the working of grace. Another member noted that using that framework, faith is reduced to a process, where the path to Heaven is achieved by a series of tasks. The reading reminds the council that the new Pelagians approach promotes an excessive attention on the “self” and how this focus excludes the mystery of God’s love and the graces God wishes to share with us. St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that faith is not intended to be burdensome and our faith should inspire hope. Wrapping up the discussion on tonight’s topic was the reminder from Pope Francis that liturgical reform occurred for a reason.

# Refreshments:

Sarah L. and JoAnn H. get the kudos for the yummy refreshments served at tonight’s meeting. The meatballs, in particular, were a big hit!

# Reports and Updates

## Old Business

* Playground Committee: (JoAnn) – Tonight’s update includes that:
1. The tax exemption status the parish has requested has been approved. The parish is now able to move forward with fund raising activities
2. Site preparation: Jim Raposa has been working on site preparation with Greg Marble and Tim Brown of the Knights of Columbus. Some excavation has been completed, the fence has been removed and stored for future use.
3. The Diocese is recommending a solicitation letter be sent to the families of the parish. The council noted that this step has already been completed.
4. The fund raising sub-committee is working on a casino night. The council was told that there is a company out of Richmond that the committee will work with to put the casino night together.
5. Action steps: Additional specifics are still in discussion stages. The casino gaming night is scheduled for July 26, 2025. Plans include offering sponsorships to businesses in the community where individual businesses could sponsor a table. Another plan includes a raffle component and prizes will be solicited from area businesses. There will also be some adult beverages available at the event, specifically, beer and wine. The council will be updated as the event planning comes together.
* Parish Litnics: The discussion included:
1. The first litnic of the summer season occurred on June 6th at Pat Kurovic’s home. Fr. Gregory noted that it was well attended and that the next litnic will be at the Walker residence.

Action Step: Council members and the parish at large are encouraged to attend. Fr. Gregory noted that is a great fellowship opportunity.

1. Youth Litnic: The council was informed that the litnic for the youth of our parish is scheduled for August 29, 2025. The time the litnic starts was not disclosed.
* Parish Council Litnic: The litnic for the members of the Parish Council and new council members will be hosted by Sarah Linsmeyer. The date is scheduled for August 1, 2025 at 6:00pm. Parking will be available at the Linsmeyer residence. Additional parking will be available at Botetourt Elementary or at Pat’s house. Action Step: Fr. Gregory is going to provide Sarah with the pastoral guidelines for organizing the event.

New Business

* Parish Council Nominations: There have been nominations for the parish council. The council discussed next steps of this process. Action Step: Council members will reach out to nominated persons to verify interest before next steps are completed.
* Justice and Charity Ministry: Ann Foster provided a letter to the council detailing the efforts of the Justice and Charity ministry from August 2024 through June 2025. The work of the ministry is both multi-faceted and impressive. Fr. Gregory reminded the council that as a committee, it is appropriate for the Justice and Charity Ministry to inform the council of the efforts and achievements. Action Step: A copy of the report will be included as a weekly bulletin insert.

# Announcements

Thanks to JoAnn and Sarah L. for refreshments and to Kay for the opening and closing prayers.

# Next Meeting

September 09, 2025 at 7pm

# Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Kay, again sourced from Xavier University. The prayer, included here by council request, reads as follows:

Holy Father

Leadership is hard to define, Lord, let us be the ones to define it with justice

Leadership is like a handful of water, Lord, let us be the ones to share it with people who thirst

Leadership is not about watching and correcting, Lord, let us remember that it is about listening and connecting

Leadership is not about telling people what to do, Lord, let us find out what people want

Leadership is less than the love of power, it more about the power of love

Lord, as we continue to undertake the work of “leader”, let us be

Affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in Jesus

Let us walk in the path He has set and those who will, follow.

Let our greatest passion be compassion and our greatest strength love

Our greatest victory, the reward of peace. Let us never fail to love. Amen.

# Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.