

COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Therese Parrish

Date | time September 09, 2025 @ 7pm | *Meeting called to order by* Pat Moynihan

In Attendance

Fr. Gregory- Pastor	JoAnn Holaday
Pat Moynihan- Chair	Steve Daum
Eric Scott	Linda Wahlman
Mark Zamanian	Sarah Flynn
Karl Ittner- Vice Chair	Olivia Platon
Kay Campbell- Scribe	

Opening Prayer and Vision Statement

Pat distributed the opening prayer, provided by Karen, who was unable to attend this meeting. The council recited the prayer together. Following the prayer, the committee members read the Vision statement aloud.

Pastor's Comments

Fr. Gregory addressed several topics in this meeting.

This coming weekend, Ronnie ____ will be visiting our parish and bringing olive wood items from Bethlehem. These items are wonderful gift items and will be available for purchase after the weekend Masses.

September 17th is the feast day of St. Hildegard. She was an influencer of the 12th century. She is known for her focus on our connection to the Holy Spirit. She believed that we are “greener” when we place our focus on the Holy Spirit.

Other dates that Fr. Gregory felt were worth mentioning to the council included:

September 20th : is Fr. Gregory’s birthday

September 22nd : is the first day of Autumn

September 23rd : is the Jewish New Year- Rosh Hoshana

Mario Dance will visit our parish. He is active with working with young adults interested in missionary work. His area of focus is on non-Caucasian members and mission areas.

An outdoor Mass at Beaverdam Park is being planned for September 23rd. Pope Leo has approved outdoor Mass, calling it the care of creation. Mass on the 23rd will include a ½ mile hike with readings and reflection. It is suggested that people bring their own lunch after Mass. Pat inquired whether the event would be held rain or shine? The feedback was that answer had not been determined yet.

September 26th at 7pm is when Professor John Acquaviva will visit the parish to discuss improving sportsmanship through Catholic teaching. The event is open to the parish and to the community. A reception

will follow his presentation. **Action Step:** Pat will be reaching out to coaches at our middle and high school to encourage their attendance. Members of our parish that have children in these age groups should be encouraged to attend.

The Parish picnic will be on September 28th. We are hoping for good weather and for the completion of the playground. There is a high degree of uncertainty of whether it can be completed on time. The discussion included the possibility of Fr. Gregory completing a blessing in lieu grand opening, if the work is not quite complete. Jim Raposa has been spearheading the groundwork and JoAnn emphasized how much he has done.

Action Step: JoAnn reports that there will be groundwork on the site on September 13th. She is seeking volunteers as part of the effort to complete the work needed.

October 7th- 8th is when the overnight trip to Washington D.C. is planned to visit the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for a Jubilee pilgrimage/celebration. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Distressing news about Bud, our pianist, was shared with the council. Fr. Gregory shared that he has experienced a cerebral bleed and will require rehab. He will be out for an extended time and prayers for him were encouraged. Veronica (Ronnie) Trist has been covering while Bud is out.

Tomorrow, September 10th, will be the funeral Mass for Pat Brousseau, a long-time member of the parish. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Mass for her.

Formation: Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate

The Summation of the Law (starting paragraph 60) was read aloud. Thoughts were shared and identified themes of:

There is a hierarchy of virtue: Faith, Hope and Love. The reading this evening focuses on where we put our priorities and where to best seek and find the “riches” Jesus has for us. The reading included a reference to the Beatitudes and the idea of “Holy Indifference”.

Refreshments:

Refreshments were generously provided by Sarah.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed for the June meeting. A motion to accept was put forward to accept the minutes. The committee approved the minutes without dissent.

Reports and Updates

Old Business

- Playground Committee: (JoAnn)- JoAnn started her report by sharing that the initial effort of having a casino night fell through and alternatively, 15 gift baskets were raffled off. \$51,000.00 has been raised. The fund raiser was successful, and funds raised were sufficient for the initial installation of the playground. The equipment arrived last week and is currently taped off to prevent use. As mentioned during the Pastor’s comments, site work is needed and a workday is scheduled for September 13th. The current effort is to address securing playground mulch and

installation of borders. JoAnn anticipates that there will be additional days when assistance will be needed prior to completion of the playground project.

New Business

- JoAnn also announced that there is another opportunity to raise funds currently under development. A local business, Damon and Company, which is a sports bar and grille, is offering to donate proceeds from their Fall Bike Fest to the church to further assist with the playground effort. The funds will be used to purchase additional playground pieces. **Next steps:** Mark graciously agreed to represent the parish at the bike fest, on October 5th, to express thanks to those contributing and to encourage donations. Discussion included also having John Flynn join him. JoAnn and Pat will develop the wording for Mark. Attendance is encouraged, but Kay did point out that people in attendance will be drinking and the event is not necessarily child friendly. Parents need to exercise discretion. The event hours will be 12N- 5PM.
- The dedication of the playground by Fr. Gregory was discussed by the council. (Reference above entries). Discussion included how to proceed if the playground is not ready- whether it would be better to wait until it is completed or to provide a blessing at the picnic. Currently, the equipment is taped off, and safety stickers are being applied. **Next steps:** Sarah offered that John Flynn may have resources to assist with meeting the goal of completion in time for the picnic and will approach him about assisting. Eric reported that the Knights of Columbus would like to know what they can do as a group to assist further and solicited feedback. Eric will share the need for help on September 13th.
- Rosary Walk: New members of the council were also told about the pending Rosary Walk that is planned for the remaining property. Pat shared that in addition to the faith opportunity the walk provides, it would also benefit the parish in terms of taxes as the property would be used for a religious purpose.
- The council expressed gratitude for the Knights of Columbus for providing the reception for the guest speaker coming to our parish this weekend.

Council Positions: The process of discerning council posts for the coming year was shared with the new council members. These posts, the chair, vice chair and scribe, will be voted on in the next council meeting. Thoughtful consideration of these positions was encouraged.

Announcements

Thanks to Sarah for refreshments and to Karen for the opening and closing prayers.

Next Meeting

October 21, 2025, at 7pm

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer provided by Karen was read aloud by the parish council

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.