

St Joseph Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - March 5, 2026

Call to Order – 6:00 Bob Puralewski

Members present: Fr Mike Williams, Dick Weller (via phone), Bob Puralewski, Bill Wentworth and Kathy George.

Opening Prayer - Our Father

Minutes of Prior Meeting – Approved

Education Trust Fund -Fr Mike

The ETF is doing well but looking at these funds for a better way to get reliable lunch/recess aides. Fr will send a letter to parishioners to solicit more regular donations in the Educational Trust Fund envelopes. This could fund these aides at a better pay rate and attract more people.

Youth Program – Fr Mike

Jen is running a special series for a small but faithful group of high school youth. The author of the book “Enthroned” (David Fritch?) visited this week.

Evangelization/Welcoming -Fr Mike

Fr Mike presented a new idea brought forth by a new parishioner that worked well in her own parish. It involved “quad groupings”. Four people get together to discuss their Catholic faith with the idea that a smaller group facilitates more sharing. After some time, each person in the group starts their own “quad” with three new people.

Sacred Heart in Mt Pleasant has this program and seems to be a success. Fr Mike has some links and we may be able to start a program like this around Easter. Possibly members at Sacred Heart could come and present their program here. It could be a focused study on the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Media Academy- A new program exploring how to create and use media responsibly. This group would have a board that would help guide projects.

Finished media projects may be made available to other schools. Equipment purchased for St Joe Elementary project may be used for this as well. St Joe may purchase more equipment for this group if needed at some point. The board is hoping to get good input from people with various backgrounds. Most members are parishioners, with the exception of the social worker.

Finance Committee – Dick Weller

As of the end of February the budget is \$78,000 in the black for now. The parish collections have not been following the trend of slowing down over summer or after Christmas. Expenditures are down, but they do vary through the year. Someone from the Finance Committee will be meeting with a Foundation Group (Dick... What was this? Change as needed) through the diocese to discuss how components of that would work to invest a large donation received by the parish.

Other Items to Address – Fr Mike

IHM Parish in Lansing is starting a Catholic Preschool. Lansing Catholic High School currently has a middle school program that happens at the high school. They would like to grow this program by busing kids from outlying parishes to Lansing Catholic. Ideally, these kids would be able to play competitive sports in grades 6-8 and then transfer to Lansing Catholic High School.

Pastor's Report

Padded pews seem to be cost-prohibitive and the idea will be tabled for now.

Other Comments/Thoughts ...

Prayer for Vocations and Adjournment

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6 pm