



# Saint Bartholomew Church

Faith. Fellowship. Service.

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## PASTORAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes Aug. 12, 2025

**Present:** Jerry Yox, Ken Radziwon, Joanne Hauser, Joy Niehaus, Joe Arnold, Jon Tobin, Colleen Wietmarschen, Charlie McDonald (Pastoral Council Secretary)

**Absent:** Ashley Evans

**Guests:**

**Opening:** The meeting was opened at 7 PM in the KAC upper room by council chair Jerry Yox

### Approval of 3/25/25 Pastoral Council Minutes:

Charlie read highlights of the 3/25/25 minutes since it has been so long between meetings. Jon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Ken seconded, and the motion passed.

### Worship Commission Discussion:

- Jerry started the discussion by stating that, at the 7/22/25 OLODP family Pastoral Council and Finance Committee meeting, Fr. Henry asked the family parishes that no longer have a Worship Commission take steps to form one right away, ideally before the next OLODP family meeting scheduled for 8/19/25. He would like all Worship Commissions to be in place before the new Mass schedule is finalized.
- Ken said he was on the previous Worship Commission and Linda Kohler was chair. He spoke with Linda who said she would be happy to help put together a new commission.
- Jerry asked what the goals and agenda of the previous commission were; Ken gave a brief update.
- Joy said another reason we need to re-establish our worship commission is so it can eventually become part of an OLODP family Worship Commission.
- Jon made several comments about SBAA and Cub Scout masses, saying perhaps the new Worship Commission can make the process easier for school kids to volunteer to participate in activities at Mass such as readings. He said he would be interested in being a liaison to Worship.
- After further discussions, **Ken said he will ask Linda Kohler to speak with members of the previous Worship Commission to see who is interested in being on the new one.**

### Mass Schedule Discussion:

- Ken said Fr. Henry wants each Pastoral Council to have a discussion about the upcoming changes to Mass schedules. Father would like to reduce the total number of family Masses from 10 to 5 (1 at each parish), with the following proposed schedule:
  - Sat 4:00 PM - Assumption
  - Sun 8:30 AM - St. Bernard
  - Sun 9:30 AM - St. Clare
  - Sun 10:00 AM - St. Vivian
  - Sun 11:00 AM - St. Bartholomew
  - A Sunday evening Mass at one of the parishes

- Joe said Fr. Henry mentioned the following criteria for the new Mass schedule: 1. Attendance at each Mass at least 250, or the church at least 50% full, 2. No Masses at the same time, 3. All Masses handled by 2 priests.
- Ken said the 2024 Beacons and OLODP Annual Report states St. Bartholomew has the highest average weekend Mass attendance (349) for our 2 Masses.
- Colleen asked why the Franciscans no longer say Mass at St. Bartholomew, but no one was sure.
- Ken feels there should be 2 Masses on Saturdays, possibly 3 or 4 pm and 5 pm, and St. Bartholomew is available.
- Jon said that if an 11:00 am Sun Mass gives us best chance of having the most mass attendance, then he is in favor of it.
- Ken said we need the finance team to look at how to reduce expenses and increase income.
- After further discussion about Mass schedules, **Ken said he will propose the following Mass schedule to Fr. Henry:**
  - Sat 3:00 pm – St. Vivian
  - Sat 5:00 pm – Assumption
  - Sun 8:30 am - St. Bernard
  - Sun 9:30 am - St. Clare
  - Sun 11:00 am - St. Bartholomew
  - Sun 7:30 pm – St. Vivian

#### **Ways to Increase Baptisms, Weddings and other Sacraments:**

- A number of ideas were discussed in an effort to find ways to increase sacraments at St. Bartholomew:
- Ken would like to see JPll become part of St. Bartholomew parish again and possibly combine with St. Vivian school; he said there are already children of St. Vivian parishioners enrolled at JPll. Joe said he doesn't know if JPll could be "unconsolidated" from the other schools
- Jon said we need to have conversations about the school now and not wait. Joy wondered if St. Bartholomew parish could afford JPll if it becomes part of our parish again. Ken said Norrie is a very good Principal and there are 2 St Barts parishioners on the school board.
- Concerning weddings, Joy said some people go to certain churches to get married because they like the looks of the churches, especially the old churches. Jerry said some of the old churches are able to have a wedding and reception at the same venue. St. Bartholomew could possibly accommodate this by using the KAC for receptions.
- Ken said St. Bartolomew only had 4 weddings from 2021-2024.
- Jon said we need to find a way to attract more young people here, perhaps by becoming more welcoming and finding ways to build better relationships. Joy said we also need to have more of the parents come
- Ken said we need some sort of a welcoming committee. Could start with a survey/pole of parishioners to find their interests.
- Colleen said it would be good to have refreshments after mass, coffee and donuts, etc., to try to get more parishioners interacting. Jon said he spoke with Randi about a welcoming committee and he thinks she said something is in the works.
- Jon suggested reducing sports fees for kids helping at church such as serving, bringing up gifts, etc. Ken agreed with the idea. Jon also asked if we could provide service hours for youth.
- Jon thinks a welcoming/engagement committee could help increase sacraments. Jerry said perhaps we could have a different parish ministry sponsor donuts/coffee or hors d'oeuvres after a Mass once a month. Jon said perhaps we should take a look at some other vibrant churches.
- Jerry said one of our challenges is older average age of our parishioners compared to some of the more vibrant parishes.

- Colleen asked about the family of parishes get together/picnic; will one be held this year? Jerry said the picnic was held at Assumption last year the week after our festival, but fall would be a better time to have it. He said we should ask Fr Henry if we should do it again this fall. Joe said perhaps it could be proposed at the next OLODP group meeting
- **Jerry said we should propose to Fr. Henry that we form an Engagement Committee that can promote ideas such as having parish ministries sponsor get togethers after Mass, perhaps once per month.** Jon said he would like to be involved with this.

**Next council meeting:** No date was set.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie McDonald.