

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Immaculate Conception Church

Mattoon, IL – February 18, 2025

In attendance: Father John, Deacon Gene, Carla Will, David Skocy, Henry Unkraut, Sheila Record, Kristen Watson, Megan Salmela, June Kriesel, Joann Curtis

Absent: Garic Lawrence, Rosa Olvera, Zoraida Irizarry

November 2024 Minutes Approved.

Pastoral Council Membership

- June Kriesel to step down as Social Committee representative after the May 2025 Pastoral Council Meeting.
- Garic Lawrence has conflicts with his work schedule.
- John Watson has stepped down due to his busy work schedule.

Hospitality

Social Committee/June Kriesel

- Epiphany Brunch:
 - The Epiphany Brunch was successful even though the weather was not ideal, parishioners enjoyed the food and fellowship.
 - Social Committee will host the last evening of the Lenten Parish Mission (That We May Grow In Understanding with Brother Stanley Rother Wagner), menu to be determined. Suggestions are appetizers or a Cajun dinner (although some feel it may be too late in the evening for a full meal).

CCW (Council of Catholic Women)/Sheila Record

- The CCW Funeral Luncheon Ministry remains their largest endeavor and is successful due to the help of many volunteers.
- The CCW will host a “Soup & Sandwich Meal” following the Saturday evening Mass on March 1st for the Lenten Retreat.
- CCW’s ladies night, “Mardi Gras,” will be offered on Wednesday, February 26th, from 4:30-6:30 PM in the Parish Center. In place of traditional meetings, quarterly gatherings on Wednesday evenings is the new format.
- Mattoon Deanery CCW Meeting is Tuesday, March 4th, at St. Anthony, Effingham. See bulletin for more details.
- SDCCW Lenten Retreat is Tuesday, March 25, and Wednesday, March 26, at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. The theme is “Walking with Jesus through Holy Week.” Registration forms are available on the table at the entrance of Church.

- SDCCW 2025 High School Female Graduate Applications are available on the table at the entrance of Church.

Spanish Language/Rosa Olvera and Zoraida Irizarry

- In Rosa and Zoraida's absence, Father John shared that they are currently planning a Cinco de Mayo event.

Prayer

Lenten Schedule/Father John

- Lenten Parish Retreat: "That We May Grow in Understanding" with Brother Stanley Rother Wagner, February 28th through March 3rd, "
- Pastoral Council will lead the Stations of the Cross on March 7th.
- Lenten Bus Pilgrimage Trip on Monday, March 10th, to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception followed by a tour at the Corpus Christi Priory.
- "Rice Packing Day" for all students in 2nd grade and up, parents welcome, in the Family of Faith Center gym from 10 AM – Noon, on Saturday, March 15th. Rice meals will be packed and shipped to our Sister Parish, Saint Joseph the Worker in Venezuela.
- March for Life in Springfield on Tuesday, March 25th. Please call the Parish Office to reserve your seat in the Parish Van.

Inquiry Class Report/Deacon Gene

- Julie Fisher, Zoie Snyder, Ayriana Frost and Adelyn Hensley will attend the Rite of Election and be welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil or during the Easter Season.
- Three teenagers from Tuscola have been attending our RCIA classes. They will be welcomed into the Church at Tuscola with Fr. Trummer.

High School Graduation/Father John

- High School Graduation Mass is scheduled for at 10:30 AM, Sunday, May 11th.

Formation

Eucharistic Exposition

- IC Eucharistic Exposition began the first weekend in September 9 years ago. Plan to kickstart your Lent with Exposition.

Family of Faith/Carla Will

- We gained a new family in February, Rueben and Brianna Tumacder.
- Currently communicating with two additional families (Moses and Greuel) that may join in March.

- During Family Solidarity on Sunday, February 16, families assembled 650 pieces of mail for our annual Lenten Mailing for IC and St. C. Father John also burned old palms for Ash Wednesday.
- March 15th, 10 AM – Noon, “Lenten Rice Meals for the Mission” is a youth volunteer opportunity to support our sister parish in Venezuela. More details to come.

Nazareth Catholic Academy/Carla Will

- The Academy meets on Tuesdays in the Family of Faith Center with 8 families involved.
- A great partnership with IC and the Academy has been formed and we are looking forward to sharing the Family of Faith Center in the years to come.

Adult Education Offerings/Carla Will

Thursday Mornings, 9:30 AM:

Pillar II: The Sacraments - Winter 2025

True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation - Lent 2025

Thursday Evenings, 6:30 PM:

*Epic: A Journey Through Church History - Fall 2024 & Winter 2025

*Father John welcomes all to join EPIC as it continues through the Winter Semester.

Service

Knights of Columbus/Father John

- “33-Day Consecration to Jesus Through St. Joseph” – a Friday Morning Men’s Group meeting from February 14th through March 14, and Tuesday, March 18th. COR: Answering the needs of Catholic men through prayer, formation and fraternity. 10 men participating, considered a great success, praying group will continue to grow.

St. Vincent DePaul/Joann Curtis

- The Thanksgiving collection was filled with generous donations from parishioners totaling \$9,000. More money collected in 2024 than in 2023.
- Seven members remain active, four attended the last meeting.
- The seven members rotate meetings with clients twice per month.
- Joann requested we share via word of mouth (258-NEED) with those in need about the services of St. V. They assist with rent, utilities, food and medical expenses, Dial-A-Ride and provide quarters for laundry machines.
- Joann considering creating St. V Business Cards to hand out to people in need. Father John said that would be very useful in the Rectory when people knock on the door for assistance.

St. Mary House /Father John

- Received a generous donation from outside the parish.
- Group of 3 St. Mary Board members (Dalena Hall, Terese Matthews and Terry Coulton) meet with potential houseguests. St. Mary house may be full soon.

Projects/Henry Unkraut

- N/E stairs and roof redo. Completely open on each side and new upper deck plan for handrails and canopy like elevator entrance.
- Replacing bulbs at the St. Mary Altar and increasing number of bulbs to change the look.
- Oil and chip the cemetery streets.
- Columbarium. Working with Effingham Monument.
- Front of Church – Holland Masonry.
- Rectory Floors – Sand and refinish this July. Parish Office will temporarily move to the Parish Center.
- Redo front handrails on church doors.
- Church Bell system is down again, hoping to be repaired for Christmas.

Diocesan Wide Centennial Campaign/Father John

- While at no cost, it is essential that we reach out to non-active parishioners and invite them to return to church.
 - Dave mentioned posting our Mass Times at Emerald Acres Sports Complex to invite those visiting Mattoon to our parish. Dave will contact Emerald Acres.
- Also necessary to have registered members become involved in church roles.
 - Joann suggested a Ministry Fair or a “Meet and Greet” after Mass to invite people to parish groups. During the seven Sundays during the Easter Season groups will be in the Narthex with pamphlets to hand out to parishioners about their group and what it offers to the parish. Dave mentioned it is a great idea to personally invite parishioners to join group(s).
 - Groups: St. Vincent, Social Committee, Family of Faith and Share the Word, Knights of Columbus, the Apostles, CCW, etc...

Next Meeting: May 20, 2025 @ 6:30 PM. **Prayer Assignment:**