

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Immaculate Conception Church

Mattoon, IL – May 20, 2025

In attendance: Father John, Deacon Gene, Carla Will, Henry Unkraut, Rosa Olvera, Zoraida Irizarry, Sheila Record, Kristen Watson, June Kriesel, Joann Curtis

Absent: David Skocy, Megan Salmela

February 2025 Minutes Approved.

Pastoral Council Membership

- Father John thanked June for her many years of service to Pastoral Council. Father John will be in touch with Mary Knepple to seek a replacement.

Hospitality

Couples Date Nite/Father John

- IC is following the model set by Fr. Michael Trummer/Forty Martyrs for the couples' date night they hosted in May.
- Kramer & Andrea Soderberg will present a dual speech, "Marriage: A Journey Towards Heaven" here at Immaculate Conception, in church at 4 PM, on Sunday, June 29th, with a catered meal to immediately follow in the Parish Center. Babysitting will be offered in the Family of Faith Center. The parish may give tickets to couples who were recently wed here at Immaculate Conception.
- The goal is to have parishes within the Mattoon Deanery take turns hosting a monthly Couples Date Night. Fr. Michael Berndt/St. Charles will host the next date night.

Ministry Fair/Father John

- Thank you to Joann for suggesting this great idea to have different groups offer information following the Sat/Sun Masses during the Easter Season.
- Father is pleased that a lot of great information has been shared with parishioners about our various groups and organizations.

Social Committee/June Kriesel

- Donut Sundays: June 1st, July 6th & August 3rd.
- Ministry Fair: Social Committee will offer cookies and bottled water with paper attachment about the Social Committee in the Narthex following the May 31st, Saturday Mass. Social Committee will combine the Ministry Fair with Sunday's Coffee & Donuts.
- Social Committee will host the annual Ice Cream Social at 6:30 PM, Sunday, August 10th.

- Social Committee will host Family of Faith's "Welcome Back Brunch" on Sunday, September 21, in the Parish Center, between the two Masses.

CCW (Council of Catholic Women)/Sheila Record

- CCW's participation in the recent Ministry Fair on the weekend of May 3rd & 4th allowed an opportunity to add to their Funeral Luncheon Ministry of parish ladies to provide desserts or to volunteer for funeral dinners. Volunteers are always needed to provide desserts or to work.
- The next Immaculate Conception CCW Meeting/Social Gathering will be held on Wednesday, June 25th, from 4:30-6:30 PM, in the Parish Center. Thank you to Kerry Considine who continues to be the Social Chair for these events.
- The next Mattoon Deanery CCW meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7th, at St. Columcille, Sullivan.
- The Springfield Diocesan CCW will hold their annual convention on Wednesday, October 1st, at St. Paul's Church, Trinity Hall, Hilghland. Details to come.

Spanish Language/Rosa Olvera

- The Cinco de Mayo event was a great success.
- Rosa's cooking class was very well attended with 16 people. Rosa is considering offering classes more frequently.
- Pentecost Celebration following the 4 PM, Saturday, June 7th Mass.
- Spanish Language Group will host a picnic at a campground in June or July.

Prayer

IC Pro-Life Mass/Father John

- IC Pro-Life Mass will be held on Monday, June 16th, at 6:30 PM (no 7 AM Mass) with meeting to follow.

Day of Prayer for Life/Father John

- Day of Prayer for Life will be held Wednesday, June 18th, at St. Francis Church in Teutopolis. Fr. Michael Rosa will be the guest celebrant at the 7:30 PM closing Mass.
- The designated prayer hour with Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration for Immaculate Conception, Mattoon, St. Columcille, Sullivan, and St. Charles, Charleston, will be from 5:00 to 6:00 PM.
- The Parish Van will leave IC parking lot at 4:15 PM and will stay through the 7:30 PM Mass. Pack a lunch.

Inquiry Class Report/Deacon Gene

- Experienced and new servers were invited to attend 2 out of 3 Server Trainings during the month of May. Deacon shared that new servers will be paired with experienced servers.
- Matthew and Logan England are new Eucharistic Ministers.

Formation

Family of Faith/Carla Will

- We have completed the Sophia Institute's 4-year cycle, "Family of Faith: Catechesis for the Whole Family." The 2025-2026 focus will be "The Liturgical Year."
- Family of Faith is considered a great success, always looking to bring in additional families.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for May 29 & 30, at 6 PM both evenings, in the Family of Faith Center. Joann Curtis will portray St. Catherine of Siena on Thursday, May 29th, and Patrick Coulton will portray Archbishop Fulton Sheen on Friday, May 30th. Fun and meaningful activities have been created by Jeanne Gross for the children to enjoy.

Nazareth Catholic Academy/Carla Will

- The Academy is grateful to Father John and Immaculate Conception for use of the school. It has been a successful first year with 8 families participating in the homeschool group. At this time, 12 families have registered for the 2025/2026 school year with 3 additional families interested.
- The academy will utilize 3 classrooms on the east side of the school and use the Lower Level of Church as their lunchroom.
- 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

- 9:30 AM Thursday Mornings

Fall 2025 - "Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled"

Late Fall 2025 into Winter 2026 - "The Bible and the Virgin Mary"

Winter/Lent 2026 - "The Creed" with Bishop Barron

- 9:30 AM Thursday Evenings

Fall 2025 - "When You Pray: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God"

with Edward Sri

Late Fall 2025 into Winter 2026 - "Why We Worship" with Dr. Brant Pitre"

Winter 2026 – Thursday Evening Class - "Why We Believe" with Dr. Brant Pitre

Lent 2026 – Thursday Evening Class - "Why We Confess" with Dr. Brant Pitre

Service

Knights of Columbus/Father John

- KC Blood Drive is Sunday, June 15th, from 9 AM – 1 PM, in the Parish Center.
- Mattoon Knights of Columbus "Race the Cross", is Saturday, June 28th. As the name suggests, the race is in the shape of a cross. Ad is airing on the radio.
- KC hosting a Parish Dance scheduled for August 23rd.

St. Vincent DePaul/Joann Curtis

- Continue to assist people with rent and utilities.
- Supply food vouchers, ranging from \$50-75, some need these for special food requirements like diabetics, etc...
- \$3,000-\$4,000 expenses for April.
- St. V. is still well-funded from the Thanksgiving collection.
- Eight members remain active, two potential new members thanks to the Ministry Fair.

St. Mary House /Father John

- House has been full. One family recently moved to Charleston with help from ERBA.
- St. Mary Board members met with a potential guest earlier this week. She is employed and looking for short-term housing assistance.
- Guests are grateful for the St. Mary House and most do not intend to stay long-term.
- Sheila shared that finances are fine and that the St. Mary House recently received a generous donation that will help provide for many years to come.

Projects/Henry Unkraut

- N/E stairs and roof redo. Concrete steps that were falling apart now have a new layer of concrete over them. The base is in very good condition. New handrails with covering and child guard to come. Will look similar to covering at handicap entrance.
- The columbarium is set. Currently it is too wet to do maintenance around it. Alfalfa planted in fields around the cemetery will eventually provide a profit.
- Some street repair work will be done at the cemetery in July/August.
- Front of Church needs brick maintenance. Repairs by Holland Masonry.

- Rectory Floors – Sand and refinish this July. Parish Office will temporarily move to the Parish Center.
- Chimney repairs required a new metal chimney which will be finished quickly.
- Original attic window replaced in the rectory.

Diocesan Wide Centennial Campaign/Father John

- A main focus of the Renew IC Campaign is maintaining the infrastructure, building and grounds. It is our responsibility to pass this parish on to our children and grandchildren.
- Father John shared that Josh Robinson will no longer mow at Calvary Cemetery beginning June 1st.
- Father John is hoping to hire a High School Youth Group leader. He was happy to see older students enjoying the historic Silver Star Skating Rink for our parish Skating Party on Sunday, May 18th. In years past, Newman Students have led HSYG.
- Joann shared that her son, Perry Curtis, is willing to redo/modernize our website for free. Father asks that Perry meet with Kim.

Next Meeting: August 26, 2025 @ 6:30 PM. **Prayer Assignment:**