

Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Attendees: Fr. Joe Connelly (Pastor), Pat Ryan (Parish Administrator), Steve Sims (Trustee), Lourdes Rivera, Cara Barone, Pat Dolan, Marymartha Heasley, Matthew Amos, Sonya Coelho, Debbie Stadt

Absentees: Mike Braun (Deacon), Jonathan Amos

1. Call to order: 5:15 P.M.

2. Opening prayer: Hail Mary, led by Fr. Joe

3. Input from parishioners: The question arose as to why individual petitions are no longer brought forth at the weekday masses. Father explained that at each mass there is a petition asking God to bless the needs we each hold in our hearts. In addition, the parish book of prayers located by the votive candles in the main church, contain prayer requests.

A few parishioners from the Saturday 4:30 mass asked if they could continue reciting the rosary before mass beyond the month of May. Since May and October are months dedicated to the rosary, it will be reserved for public recitation with a microphone from the altar during those months. However, parishioners are welcome to pray the rosary in the historic church or Marian Chapel before mass if they wish.

Concern was expressed about the microphone malfunctions. This issue was caused by an electrical power surge that shorted out part of our sound system. It became necessary to use a handheld microphone from the ambo until the repair takes place.

Sonya Coelho said this was her last Parish Council meeting since her term has ended. Thank you for your service, Sonja!

4. The council reviewed Sections 1-3 of Archbishop Hebda's Pastoral Letter entitled '*Only One Thing is Necessary: How Catholic Families Can Strive To Be United in This Live and the Next.*' Father asked for our thoughts regarding the Pastoral Letter. Discussion followed. It was determined that cell phones, iPads, computers, and now AI is here to stay as a way of American life. We must come up with ways to monitor its use especially among our youth in order to ensure a good, strong Catholic family life. Most importantly, Christ must always be at the center and our focal point. The goal is to set a vision for stronger family and church relationships. Ideas and information were shared

to include having parents become fully engaged with their children for preparation of the sacraments and not just drop them off at church, leave, and come and pick them up later. The Health & Wellness Committee is looking at having activities at the Fall Festival with activities involving both the parents and kids. There would be prizes as incentives. Perhaps the Men's and Women's Clubs could get creative to implement activities to be more family oriented. In addition to parents with children, all parishioners must know and feel that they are never alone. Everyone is part of our parish family.

A copy of this letter is posted on our parish website blog that can be found under "resources".

5. Prior approval of May minutes: It was decided that the minutes would get approved via an email within 2 weeks of meeting and placed on Guardian Angels website under "resources".

6. JOC update: Justice & Outreach (Pastoral): Terry Quinn's programs remain strong and vibrant with several people participating in the areas of Respect Life, Refugee Resettlement, Loaves & Fishes, Food Shelf Garden, Open Cupboard, Sister Parish, and Giving Center. Other ministries flourishing under Terry's guidance include Grief support and Cancer support groups, Prison Penpal, Befrienders, and Homebound.

7. Engagement Commission: Pat Dolan reported that the group is off for the summer and the next New Parishioners Brunch is scheduled for November 8th. The next Angel Award recipient has been identified and Cara Barone will conduct the interview.

8. Faith Formation update: (no report was given)

9. Chesterton Academy updates: On June 3rd, the faculty from Chesterton attended noon mass at G.A. and looked over the space for the school wing. Father Joe, Pat Ryan, Brian Leonard and an attorney who has worked with Chesterton reviewed a template for the lease.

Details are still being copiously scrutinized. Space downstairs in the youth area will need to be cleaned out this summer in order to determine just how much space there is and how to best utilize it for existing GA groups and meetings. Some groups will need privacy, such as grief support as well as when money is being counted for the parish.

Door #2 by GA Perks will serve as the main entrance to the school. The entire classroom space will be secured and unavailable for parish use during the school day.

Requests for Chesterton's evening programs will require prior approval after checking the parish calendar to avoid over booking. Since they will be renters and not our school, GA will not be in any way part of the daily running of the school. We will do all we can to accommodate the school's staff and students. Their presence will enhance our parish.

10. Sanctuary updates: The Steering Committee will meet Thursday, June 18th at 5:00 P.M. with Ralph Scarfone and his associates. The purpose of the meeting is to view a closer and more refined look at proposed changes to the sanctuary and to discuss details such as materials to be used, etc. Mass will take place in POH when necessary once things are underway. More information will be forthcoming as they develop.

11. Other additions: nothing further

12. The meeting concluded at 5:55 P.M.

Next meeting: August 11th, 2026 at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Stadt