

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Attendees: Fr. Joe Connelly (Pastor), Mike Braun (Deacon), Pat Ryan (Parish Administrator), Steve Sims (Trustee), Lourdes Rivera, Cara Barone, Marymartha Heasley, Matthew Amos, Jonathan Amos, Debbie Stadt.

Absentees: Pat Dolan

1. Call to order: 5:16 P.M.
2. Opening prayer led by Fr. Joe: Prayer honoring the feast day of St. Claire.
3. Input from Parishioners: The caution signs on the front walkway of the main church look "tacky", however, the yellow lines bring awareness to the unevenness of the pavement for security reasons until the work can be done. The request was made to replace the current signs with signs that are more attractive.
4. Archbishop's Pastoral Letter (Review of Section 4): The consensus was that all families have their problems, and that the Catholic church serves as a place to come for healing and holiness by participating in the Sacraments. Love begins in the home with our own family. We can find peace by placing our trust and prayers before Mary, who had endured suffering in her own family. And we must remember that the "family" is much bigger as it includes the parishes on a larger scale. We realize that sin tarnishes individuals and has impacts on all relationships.
5. JOC Update: Please see attached document with information from Terry Quinn's ongoing programs.
6. Response to a Safety & Security Committee resolution: The church serves as a public house of worship and should be "welcoming" at all times so as to be a place with pastoral implications. The council strongly affirmed the need to do what is appropriate to provide overall safety. Door monitors will continue to remain at current locations to ensure that entrances are locked 15 minutes after the start of mass. Greeters could be placed at the main doors, eliminating the need to lock them. The recommendation from safety and security to lock main doors 15 minutes after mass was not approved.
7. Engagement Commission: no updates

8. Faith Formation update: Lukas continues with a thorough study of the Nicene Creed, and upcoming session on Revelation. Dates and times will be posted in the bulletin.

9. Chesterton Academy update: A Town Hall Meeting was held July 30, 2026. It was well attended. Fr. Joe addressed the most common questions and concerns after giving a detailed presentation. The school will be a source of income revenue based on a two year lease. Guardian Angels Parish will have use of Peter O'Neil Hall first and foremost and a strict calendar managed by the parish office will be adhered to to ensure this. A recap of the Town Hall Meeting will be in the Bulletin this weekend, If people still have questions or concerns, they are encouraged to check the Chesterton website (www.chestertonscv.org), or contact Fr. Joe directly for clarification. Fr. Joe will be meeting with the leaders of the GA Ministry groups to go over their needs as they move downstairs to the youth center and teen rooms. There is ample room on our campus, and we must decipher how to utilize these spaces. Chesterton is an official Archdiocesan approved school. We will accommodate them in accordance with the lease that is currently being drafted. Fr. Joe will continue to keep everyone apprised as things develop.

10. Sanctuary update: A meeting is scheduled tomorrow, August 12, with Scarfone and the GA steering committee. Currently our financial situation looks like it could allow us to do some additional upgrades. Fr. Joe is hopeful that the proxy will be signed sometime next month. The latest possible start date looks like early April, just after Easter. Parishioners will be kept up to date as this project unfolds.

11. Other additions: It was determined and approved by a unanimous vote that 'PPC' on the GA website and publications would be changed to 'Parish Council' in order to avoid any confusion

12. The meeting ended with a Glory Be, led by Fr. Joe

13. Next Meeting: September 8th, 2026, at 5:15 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,
Debbie Stadt