

Parish Council Meeting of 9/11/2025

Minutes

Approved 11/12/25



Present: Marc Albanese, William Carroll, Liz Coats, Sharon Dal Cero, Patricia Dickerson, Gerald Frank, Matthew Gebhardt, Cheryl Hine, Timothy Houseknecht, David Kaiser, Edward Koh, Jacqueline Leidenfrost, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Duane Porterfield, Kathleen Rourke, Sheila Ryan, Karen Salino, and Barbara Willers

Excused: Adele Jay

Opening Prayer by Fr. Bernard

Minutes: Minutes of June 12, 2025, meeting approved.

Committee Reports *(see reports at the end):*

All committee chairs are reminded to include Eileen and Susan when they send out their reports.

Word committee (education and evangelization)

- “Text in Church” is a program to communicate with parishioners. It was decided not to move forward with this at this time but “technology is important” so it will be kept on file.
- Fr. Bernard will do a series explaining parts of the Mass. He did it once before and it was well-received.
- They are looking for topics for the Adult Education classes.
- St. Bernard on the Road? A professor from the school would come to the parish, possibly in December or May. Cheryl is checking on what might be available. Let her know if you want to see specific topics discussed. Possible cost to parish: \$150. Will enough parishioners show up? Possibly share event with local parishes.
- Q &A with Fr. Bernard is already on the schedule, Saturday after Mass.

Worship committee (liturgy)

- Good numbers of people in the churches during the summer.
- Trying to make more time for Fr. B to meet with people seems to be working.
- Holy Days: No holy day on November 1. Vigil night before: St. F. at 6 p.m.
- For most feast days beginning in 2026: Vigil at 6 p.m. at St. Francis, plus 9 a.m. at St. James and 12:10 p.m. at HC.
- Encounter nights: how to get more people, especially when getting dark earlier, Nov. through March? Considering 3:00-4:00 p.m. instead of 6:30-7:30 p.m.? Good to rotate between churches.
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet on first Fridays at St. James at 3:00 p.m. is “beautiful.”

Witness committee (social action):

- A lot of people from all ends of the parish showed up to do gardening around the churches and work in the cemeteries. Ditto for a lot of our parishioners helping out during the parish’s months at the T’Burg food pantry.

- Cards are still being sent to people who are home bound or in nursing homes.
- CROP walk in T'burg is coming up. Encourage people to walk or to sponsor someone. Seneca County does a separate program.
- Mary Davidson works with the food pantry in Lodi. That is now listed in our bulletin.
- United Way – Tim is working with the Seneca County United Way.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication):

- They are busy getting ready for the annual parish picnic at the Friary on Sunday. They expect about 100 people and everyone is to bring a dish to pass. Rick will cook the meat with David to help as needed.
- “Fine job organizing it!”

Finance Council:

- The first weekend of Oct. the annual report of the parish's finances will be distributed in the bulletin.
- We did well last year, '24-'25, with ordinary income up \$8k. There was also a spike from summer visitors.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Brad Combs is working on handrails for HC steps, to be in place soon. Other steps are still in process. South side steps “Look good.”
- Replacement of rectory roof at St. J. will appear in next year's financials.

Discussion about a railing up the steps of the sanctuary to the ambo at St. James. It was proposed at one time and the Finance council declined the expense. Could we reuse previous altar rail iron? It was felt that a railing at St. James, similar to one in Watkins Glen, should be reconsidered.

- PA system at HC is being investigated.

Norm will stop as chair of B&G in the new year. Instead, the parish would like to see volunteers from each church be the main contact person. They should be someone who could handle little repairs (changing light bulbs, etc.) and coordinate with contractors for larger jobs that are approved. David volunteered for HC and Tim for St. F.

- Contact area churches to see how they handle maintenance. Maybe share a maintenance person? We do need a new maintenance person for our parish.

Other Business:

- Please be sure to let Susan know about events for the bulletin. Each event will repeat 4x.
- It is recommended you get items to her by noon on Friday for appearance in next Sunday bulletin (it goes to press on Mondays before).

Closing Prayer: Our Father

Next meeting: November 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Annex
Future meeting dates in 2026: January 8, March 12, May 14, and June 11.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke.