

Southern Moraine Parishes Joint Pastoral Council meeting notes

8/13/2026

Location: St Peter the Apostle 630pm

This inaugural meeting of the joint pastoral council for St. James the Less, St. Peter the Apostle and St. Theresa of Avila, and focused on establishing a collaborative governance structure. The primary objective is to transition from parish-specific silos to unified joint committees to enhance community vibrancy and operational efficiency.

The evening began in Church with a period of reverence and prayer , led by Fr Jordan. Upon completion , the group reassembled in the basement of the school at St. Peters the Apostle.

What follows are the summary notes of the SMP council agenda items.

Leadership Appointments

The council conducted anonymous nominations and voting to fill key roles for the new joint body.

- Chair: Mary Markham (St. Theresa).
- Vice Chair: Carolyn Ossa (St. James) was elected following a runoff and the withdrawal of other nominees.
- Secretary: The Joint council is utilizing AI transcription to assist in generating coherent minutes, which will be reviewed by the council before being posted to parish websites. Kathy will process and forward transcription to Chair after the meeting. Prior to posting the SMP PC notes on the individual parishes webpages, it was agreed the notes will be reviewed by SMP PC members for clarification/correction.

Joint Committee Transition

The council is moving toward a model where core ministries operate as joint committees for all three parishes. These groups will meet jointly every other month, with the option for parish-specific meetings on off-months if local tasks require it.

Liaison Assignments to Joint core ministry committees:

- Liturgy: John, Claudette, and Mary Ann.
- Faith Formation: Karen and Jody.
- Stewardship: Nicole and Greg.
- Human Concerns: Julie and Erin.
- School Committee: Chris and Mike.

Operational Directive: Liaisons are tasked with being "instigators"—reaching out to existing parish committee chairs to facilitate the merger into single joint entities.

Strategic Priorities & Ideation

The council discussed shifting its focus from administrative "nuts and bolts" to pastoral and evangelical impulses.

- Memorial Pathway (St. Theresa): A fundraising project featuring a memorial walkway with sections honoring and remembering community members, children and military/ law enforcement lost loved ones. Renderings will be debuted at the upcoming turkey dinner.
- Intercessory Prayer: (all SMP) A proposal to standardize how prayer requests and networks are handled across the three sites.
- Community Outreach: (all SMP) Interest in reviving youth mission trips (target: Summer 2027) and local "Month of Success" style service events to increase visibility in the community.
- Resource Sharing: (all SMP) Identifying "gaps" where one parish may be struggling while another is thriving to allow for better mentorship and resource allocation.

Administrative Notes

- Communication: Father Jordan will formally announce the new council structure in the upcoming bulletin.
- Homework: Liaisons must contact their respective committee chairs before the next meeting to begin the unification process and identify future chairs.
- Meeting Cadence: The joint pastoral council will meet six times per year.