

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 10-16-2025**

Meeting was convened at 6:25 p.m. in the Rectory.

Present – Fr. Joe, Matthew Lee-Own, Jola Oliver, Corona Shaw, Bill Ladewski, Adam White, Luca Ripani, Al Ferolie, Bob Gordan (via Zoom)

Opening Prayer – Bill Ladewski delivered the opening prayer.

A Prayer for My Church and Prayer for Church Ministries

Announcements –

- New Parishioner Welcome Event - PPC has enlisted Kathryn Moery to assist with planning a new parishioner welcome event. Goal is to host this event in November 2025 with tie-in to the upcoming Parish Ministry Fair (2026).
- Website Update- Fr. Joe and Matthew provided an update from the website improvements committee. Our webmaster, Ron Tevonian, is currently working on an upgraded version of the site and revising the content. The goal is improving the current structure and content in the event the Parish wishes to upgrade to a commercial hosting solution in the future.

Review of September Minutes - Minutes of the September 18, 2025 meeting were reviewed & adopted without correction.

Book Discussion - Discussion opened into Chapters 1 & 2 of *Abraham Lincoln: Lessons in Spiritual Leadership*

- Matthew opened the discussion with a summary of Chapters 1 & 2 with references to passages from the book noting that Lincoln received spiritual influence from a variety of different sources, not all of which were the same Christian denomination.
- Fr. Joe explained that as an Anglo-Protestant country, inquiry into the religious practice of politicians was less pronounced than it is today. Also, being Catholic was disqualifying in political life at this time. The thought was that a politician not identifying a church might indicate that they held communist beliefs. It took nearly 200 years to have a Catholic president (JFK).
- Luca noted that Lincoln's handbill "To the Voters of the Seventh Congressional District" reaffirmed his faith in the Scripture despite not publicly professing himself a member of any Christian Church. Additionally, Luca mentioned the tendency to criticize politicians who appear to have changed position on issues (even if such change is positive) as well as the tendency to stereotype candidates based on their perceived religions (e.g. Obama having to say that he was not a Muslim and proclaimed a Christian).

- Matthew referenced the *Meditation on the Divine Will* in connection with the recent “Being Bridges” discussion hosted at the Church. The speaker made a point of saying “God takes a side”. Tie in with Pope Leo’s recent encyclical [*Dilexi Te*](#).
- Fr. Joe highlighted that Lincoln here is acknowledging that he doesn’t know God’s will as he is writing this. Mentioned that Lincoln’s Thanksgiving Address (formally instituting the Federal recognition of the holiday) is one that he often draws inspiration from around Thanksgiving time.
- Jola noted that Lincoln recognized that there was a higher purpose he was serving here and that Lincoln couldn't afford to take sides.

Old Business –

- Debrief of Oct. 5th Hospitality - Matthew provided a brief debrief of the Oct. 5th Hospitality Sunday hosted by the PPC. Over 60 parishioners were served at the event and several suggestions were generated for discussion at the Oct. PPC meeting.
- Nametags for PPC - Jola to distribute nametags for new PPC members
- Committee Update for Ministry Fair - Jola, Luca and Al presented the report of the Ministry Fair Committee. [See attached Report]
 - Tentative date for the fair is: February 15, 2026
 - Ministry Fair Committee will take the lead on contacting ministry heads to ensure coverage for all weekend Masses as well as to generate the production of handout material for use at the fair.
 - PPC to encourage ministries to welcome in recruits from the fair in the spirit of vocation as opposed to volunteerism.
- PPC Listening Sessions - Discussion opened regarding hosting a listening session after all the weekend masses in
 - Dates for PPC Listening Session are: November 15 - 16, 2025 (Sat / Sun Masses)
 - Coverage for all weekend masses as follows:
 - Saturday, November 15th 5:00 PM - Conora, Matthew
 - Sunday, November 16th 7:30 AM - Jola, Conora
 - Sunday, November 16th 9:00 AM - Matthew, Al, Bill
 - Sunday, November 16th 10:30 AM - Al
 - Sunday, November 16th 12:15 PM - Adam
 - Sunday, November 16th 5:00 PM - Luca
- Purchase of Book(s) from Dynamic Catholic - Discussion opened into proposed purchase of books from Dynamic Catholic to hand out around Advent.

- Book selected for distribution is: [Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy](#) by Matthew Kelly
 - PPC will handout the books the week prior to Christmas
 - Al Ferloie agreed to donate to cover the cost of the books
 - Jola will act as liaison with Dynamic Catholic to facilitate purchase of the books by the Parish
- Creation of Parish Safety Plan - discussion opened into the creation of a Parish Safety Plan. PPC discussed the likely sources of risk in our parish and determined that the most likely hazard is from fire or the need to quickly evacuate the building.
 - PPC formed a committee to investigate and report back at the Nov. meeting on recommendations for a Parish Safety Plan
 - Committee comprised of: Matthew, Corona, Bob

New Business –

- Additional opportunities for Sacrament of Reconciliation - AYA has made a request for additional opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Joe provided some additional background on prior efforts to offer additional Reconciliation times. PPC will follow up with AYA on ascertaining interest in having an AYA Reconciliation service.
- Thanksgiving Event for Assumption community - AYA suggested hosting a Parish Thanksgiving event for members of our community who will be in town for the holiday. PPC discussed that the best course of action was to encourage AYA to host a “Friendsgiving” for those interested in participating in the form of a potluck.

Closing Prayer – Father Joe delivered the closing prayer.

A Prayer for My Church

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for my church. Help me to be Your hands and feet and serve my church well using my unique spiritual gifts. Please bless my church community, and help us keep our focus on You. Help us reach out to our community and share Your goodness with others. I pray that Your love will overflow from us to each person we meet. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer for church ministries

"Heavenly Father, we pray that You would be with all the ministries of our church. Thank You for the selfless believers who devote their time and talents to spreading Your name.

Please grant Your wisdom to our leaders and volunteers, so they may know how best to serve. Guide their steps as they work to meet the unique needs of every person in our community and help draw them closer to You.

Fill us with Your Spirit of love and unity. Help us to set aside our differences and work together for the greater cause of Christ, living out a life that reflects Your truth.

We ask for Your strength to help the people in our ministries persevere through stressful or difficult situations. Give them peace and help them rest in Your safety.

Use these ministries to bear fruit that blesses others and honors You. Help us to be a light in the world, shining through our actions and making Your love known.

We pray that each member would grow in their faith and that all who encounter these ministries would feel Your love and presence. Help us to be faithful and supportive, giving generously of our time and resources.

In Your name we pray, Amen".