

Saint Pius X
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday – October 14, 2025

Present: Father Mark Tomaszewicz, Kristine Ericson, Bill Fell, Mary Ellen Freyermuth, Jeremy Graney, Jerry Klug, Collin Matz, Norah Morris, Mary Coyle
Guests Erica Williamson and Greg Barry

Absent: Sam Griffin, Cheslee Klinger, Jessica Lathrop, Jerry Morrissey

I. Call to Order

Pastoral Council President Kristine Ericson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mary Coyle recorded the names of those in attendance.

III. Opening Prayer

Father Mark led the opening prayer and read the Gospel of Luke 18: 1-8. Council members silently reflected on the reading and then shared their thoughts with the group.

IV. Review and approve Pastoral Council meeting minutes from Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Kristine asked if there were any corrections needed for the September 9th minutes. Mary Ellen Freyermuth moved the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded. The minutes of September 9, 2025 were approved.

V. Old Business

- ***Mary's Grotto – Knights update***

The stone mason contacted by the Knights of Columbus recommended an architect be hired for this project. The stone mason said the concrete pad under the grotto would need to be at least eight inches deep to support the weight of the grotto stones. The current one may not sustain the weight. The mason said, "Based on initial observations, I estimate that it would take approximately two men about three days to sort and categorize the material. The rough order-of-magnitude cost for this effort would be around \$6,000." No spending was approved as this was just a first assessment. It is possible that volunteers could organize the stones. The Knights will keep the Pastoral Council posted on the progress of getting the grotto rebuilt.

- ***Recruiting for 2026 Festival Chairs and Soccer Tournament Update***

Kristine said chairs for the Festival will be solicited soon. Publication should come out in November. The Soccer Club will meet on November 2 to discuss the tournament during the parish festival.

- ***Archbishop's Annual Appeal***

Father Mark said our parish has collected approximately \$4,000 so far for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. The goal for our parish is \$35,610.

- ***Parish Picnic Update***

Kristine said the parish picnic had gone well. Father Mark thanked the renovation committee. He added that volunteers had saved the parish between \$50,000-\$60,000 in labor costs.

VI. New Business

- ***Parish Center Rules Discussion***

- Guests Erica Williamson and Greg Barry, representatives of the Parish Center Renovation Committee, were present to discuss guidelines for using the Parish Center. They said the furniture for the lobby area was scheduled to arrive on September 10.
- Erica said the Parish Center is used by many different groups – those who rent it for an event, various parish groups and ministries, and St. Pius X/St. Leo School. She said having just one set of guidelines cannot to apply to all groups, so she and Greg were looking for suggestions from the Pastoral Council on how to better communicate to the various groups for clean-up of the space after its use.
- Greg said that before the renovations, there was no one who checked on the condition of the Parish Center during/after an event. He added that the previous rental agreement is outdated.
- Erica said one guideline would state that the Parish Center would not be rented to non-parishioners. Raising the cost of renting the Parish Center has been discussed, she said and the rental deposit would be non-refundable.
- Greg said the guidelines and expectations need to be formalized from the “Ten Commandments” initially developed for using the Parish Center. He said he will send a draft of the guidelines, expectations and procedures for clean-up and rental to Father Mark and to Kristine who will distribute the draft to Pastoral Council members to discuss at the November 11 meeting. Father said the guidelines would also be sent to parish staff members.

- ***Fall Clean-up***

- Kristine said clean-up of the parish grounds would be Saturday, November 8 beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers should meet in the lower, south parking lot and bring gloves, rakes, etc.
- She said the Women’s Group would provide six soups and the dessert for lunch. The following Pastoral Council members volunteered to provide the following additional items:
Oyster Crackers – Father Mark; Forks & Spoons – Norah;
Water & Gatorade – Collin; Bowls – Jessica; Napkins – Mary.

- ***Spotlighting Parish Groups and Ministries***

Kristine said she would like to begin spotlighting the various parish groups and ministries in the weekly bulletin with the goal of getting parishioners interested in joining them. She said leaders from each group/ministry could be interviewed and asked how the group/ministry supports the mission of the parish. Leaders could report on the time commitment, any special qualifications and the main objective(s) of the group/ministry. Kristine asked Pastoral Council members to bring their Parish Directory to the November 11 meeting. Parish groups/ministries are listed on pages 19-27.

- ***Discussion of December and March Meeting Dates***

- Father Mark said December is so busy, he would recommend that the Pastoral Council not meet on December 9. There will not be a Meet & Greet the weekend before.
- Kristine said the March meeting date is during Spring Break for St. Pius X/St. Leo School. After discussion, Pastoral Council members agreed to

move the March meeting to March 17 with the Meet & Greet to be held on March 14-15.

- ***Parish Center / School Update***

- On Sunday, October 5 Father Mark blessed the newly renovated Parish Center and those who were instrumental in its renovation before the parish picnic.
- The St. Pius X/St. Leo School Fundraiser will be on Saturday, October 25 at Creighton Prep.
- There will be no school on October 30-31.

- ***Meet & Greet Topics***

Jerry Klug asked about security in the church during services. Father Mark said the ushers could be trained to know where to direct parishioners to shelter in the event of severe weather. Mary Ellen Freyermuth said when she was a greeter during COVID, she had been directed to lock the front doors of the church once Mass had begun. She said it would be helpful to have conversations about church security. Father Mark said he is open to having those conversations and reviewing protocols with ushers and greeters. Bill Fell said the Omaha Performing Arts Society has guidelines for its events. He will speak to Rita Ramos about getting a copy of those guidelines.

- ***Pastor's Comments***

- Father Mark said a car had gone through the east fence on the church parking lot before a Saturday evening liturgy. No one was hurt. Repairs of the fence will be taken care of.
- Father Mark said he acknowledged all parishioners who serve the parish in any capacity during the October 11-12 liturgies.
- Kristine commented that the new processional cross is beautiful!
- Father Mark said he is interviewing candidates for Pastoral Minister. He said he has scheduled a second interview with one individual, and he is hopeful to have a new Pastoral Minister hired soon.
- Father Mark said there will be a noon Mass on Holy Days as well as the regularly scheduled evening Mass.

VII. Closing

Father Mark closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Coyle
Recording Secretary

Future Meetings-location TBD	Future Mass Meet & Greet
Nov 11	Nov 8-9
Jan 13	Jan 10-11
Feb 10	Feb 7-8
March 17	March 14-15
April 14	April 11-12
May 12	May 9-10
June 9	June 6 - 7