

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

March 2026

Present: Rick Markins, Jeff Usher, Michele Rosenbaum, Lauren Lay, Cac Diehr, Consuelo Quiroz, Peggy Clegg, Angie Mackell, Chris Johnson, Fr. Jude, Deacon Gary, Caroline Mages, Carol Wehlage, Mark Erdosy, Mark Misner

Not Present: Greg Slisz, Amy Torzewski

-Opening Prayer – Lead by Rick Markins

-We welcomed Mark Erdosy to Parish Council as the Chairperson of Liturgy Commission

-January Minutes were approved

-Parish Council will be leading the Stations of the Cross on March 27

-Old Business

-We have been working on coming up with a new process for new members; will continue this meeting

-New Business

1. Survey results

- a. 157 total votes (144 parishioners) – to keep Saturday 5:30pm
- b. 165 total votes (129 parishioners) – to keep Sunday 6:00pm

2. Discussion

- a. Average attendance at each Mass – Saturday less than 100; Sunday 120-180
- b. Some feel that parishioners who currently attend 6pm on Sunday are more likely to attend another Mass here at LF than those who currently attend 5:30 on Saturday
- c. Lourdes 4:00pm would not change because it is an attractive time and unique to the area
- d. Lots of parishes have 5/5:30/6 on Saturday; there are also several options for Sunday afternoon/evening within 20 minutes
- e. From a strictly numbers perspective, the results say more parishioners wanted to keep Saturday evening
- f. Discussed possible monetary impacts of removing each Mass
- g. One benefit of 6:00pm is that people can come back from weekend travel in time for Mass

- h. Deacon Gary mentions it is difficult for him to balance family life with having the 6pm Sunday along with all the other Masses of the weekend
- i. Discussed which Mass would have the greater impact on parishioners leaving; some parishioners may leave no matter the decision
- j. Fr. Jude says that the primary focus for keeping 5:30 is money
- k. The purpose for changing the Mass schedule is to bring people together with fuller Masses, rather than spread apart across 3 Mass times
- l. From an equality perspective, without 5:30pm, LF has Mass 3 days and Lourdes has 4 days
- m. Originally, LF got first dibs on Masses (we didn't want 4pm and 11am); we kept 5:30 based on other parish events; 6pm does not align with any events/celebrations (ex: Alumni Dinner)
- n. From the start, we knew Mass times would stay the same for 6 months and then there would be a change unless attendance deems 5 Masses necessary
- o. If we lose 5:30, we will probably lose benefactors
- p. 6pm is a convenience Mass (numbers are down during certain parts of the year)
- q. The more masses we have, the more people will be separated (same attendance across 2 masses at Lourdes and 3 masses at LF)
- r. From talk around the parish, 5:30 parishioners seem more adamant on keeping 5:30 than 6:00 people are about keeping 6:00
- s. Discussed percentages of parishioners and non parishioners voting
- t. Could we support 6pm Mass with new ministries (youth and Hispanic)? Are we moving special events, or scheduling special Masses on those weekends?
- u. Argument that if we get rid of the 6pm, we are getting rid of the one with higher attendance and the one that more people voted to keep
- v. We have masses within 2 miles that happen on Saturday evening, but the ones on Sunday evening are further away
- w. There is a possibility that if we keep 6:00pm, it will not have music; will it lose popularity without music?
- x. Should we give more weight to what the parishioners want than the nonparishioners?
- y. Discussion continued around these points and others
- z. Vote: 7 to keep Saturday; 4 to keep Sunday

-Reorganized and made some changes in the Constitution regarding elections for new members. We will continue revising the constitution at the next meeting.

-State of the Parish: working to get a quote on the leak issue in the cafeteria; we are getting an assessment on the front of school and church (possible Annual Fund); chandeliers in the church have been replaced/cleaned; Summerfest plans are in motion (Theme: Saddle Up at Summerfest); waiting to hear back for installation of safety doors in church; pews should return before Holy Week and the next round will be taken after Easter

-Invite: talk of making cards with Mass times to invite people to come to Mass at LF

-School Commission: There will be a survey to teachers (repeated annually) to give School Commission an idea of how to support teachers; writing a book about St. Therese, LF, and traditions (still looking for an author and an illustrator) – Jane Gilmore is an illustrator, Fr. Jude has a list of Catholic authors

-Liturgy: working on planning Holy Week and Easter (Holy thursday at Lourdes, Good Friday at LF, Easter Vigil at LF at 8:30

-Deacon Gary closed us in prayer