

# St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council

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## **Mission of the Parish**

Rooted in God's love, St. Joseph Catholic Parish takes as its mission to be a welcoming faith community, living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, evangelization, fellowship and service.

## **Purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council**

This particular assembly of the St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo, Michigan is called the Parish Pastoral Council. The purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council is to promote the spiritual growth of the parish community and to plan ways for the parish to carry out the mission of the Church. The Council discerns what needs to be supported, changed or developed to make the parish more faithful to God's call. It is the role of the Council:

- To know and to communicate what is happening in the Parish.
- To hold, together, a vision for our parish; where we want to see our parish go and what we see as our present mission.
- To act on items requiring decision-making.

## **Responsibilities of the Parish Pastoral Council**

The responsibilities of the Parish Pastoral Council include but are not limited to the following:

- To engage in Pastoral Planning and collaborate with the Finance Council for funding the Pastoral Plan.
- To act as representatives of the parishioners being sensitive to their needs and hopes in formulating and implementing the Pastoral Plan.
- To evaluate the direction of all parish organizations in light of the Pastoral Plan.
- To provide a representative, open and honest forum for discussion of pastoral matters so that true consensus among the parish community may be achieved.
- To seek a clear consensus of the Council on contemporary religious, ethical, and social justice issues and form a united voice with the Bishop and Pastor in speaking publicly to them.
- To cooperate with the Bishop and Pastor by initiating and/or supporting positive action for the common good of the Church, other religious bodies, and the civic community.

## **Powers**

The Parish Pastoral Council is consultative and advisory to the Pastor, reaching its recommendations by a process of prayerful discernment and consensus. It does not have canonical nor legal authority, nor does it need such powers to function effectively.

## **Terms and Qualifications for Membership**

Appointed members serve 2 year terms; and may serve in successive terms not to exceed six years. To qualify:

- \* Age 18 or over
- \* Practicing Catholic
- \* Desire to serve
- \* Attend monthly meetings
- \* Openness to Discernment – Consensus decision making
- \* Willingness to be consultative