

St. Joseph Fundraising Committee Meeting #3 Minutes - 11/10/25

Members Present: Pete Zenner, Nancy Zenner, Martha Jeffcoat, Jean Darby, Zeneida Kelley, David Ehler, Dwayne David, Kenny Svercek. New members from the 11:30 AM Spanish Mass present were: Candelaria Escobar, Felipe Pacheco, Julia Cardona, Benito Castilla and Erika Rivera.

Pete Zenner called our meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He opened the meeting with a prayer. New members introduced themselves to the group and then other members introduced themselves. Pete told those present that our committee had two distinct purposes (1) through our group we aim to pull our parish together with everyone working toward the same goal of raising money for the parish (2) we have the mission of finding best ways to raise funds for the parish. He asked if someone from the 11:30 Mass would serve as a co-chair with him. Julia Cardona and Benito Castillo agreed that they would tag team in that position.

Pete explained that at the first meeting, we got to know each other and brainstormed ideas regarding a festival as well as problems that they had encountered. Second meeting we continued to brainstorm and attempted to establish a date for the festival. St. Joseph had previously had a Mayfest on the first Sunday of the month of May. There has not been a festival for several years. The first Saturday is May 3, 2026 and Father mentioned that this was the date for the First Communion. Nancy had volunteered to speak with Bonnie Holub to see if there was a possibility that the date for First Communion could be changed. Bonnie, Father John and Julia Cardona talked about this and moved the First Communion date, allowing us to plan a festival for Sunday, May 3, 2026. Nancy had checked with the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce (COC), Thorndale COC, Lexington COC, and Cameron COC and there was nothing on their calendars for that date. Lexington has their church festival in the fall and Cameron's is in the summer. Julia Cardona asked whether a church festival has to be held on a Sunday. Could we do a Saturday festival. The group discussed the pros and cons of a Saturday festival and Felix Pacheco suggested that we do the festival on Sunday May 3 and perhaps do a Saturday festival in September. We talked about potentially looking at doing a second festival on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026.

Members of the parish that have been here for many years described the types of activities that had been part of previous Mayfests. It was brought up if you had a Hispanic band that was popular that it would draw in

people from surrounding communities. We discussed possibly having two different bands or a DJ who could play both Hispanic Mariachi music as well as country music. We discussed the expense of hiring a band and Candelario through Zeneida as her interpreter stated that there is a gentleman that sometimes donates his time for church events.

David Ehler brought up at the last Mayfest, they had cooked BBQ and the Hispanic ladies had a table set up out front that sold Mexican plates. That took away from the BBQ sales. It was decided that we need to have one meal that the entire parish helps to prepare. Ideas were shared. Dwayne David suggested that we do a Mexican dinner but serve fajitas that the men could help prepare. Felipe Pacheco mentioned homemade tortillas and Nancy suggested that we help make tamales and sell them by the dozen. Pete suggested that some of the best auction items were items that parishoners had made such as picnic tables, BBQ pits, wooden crosses, quilts, etc.

The following committees were identified and committee members signed up to chair these committees:

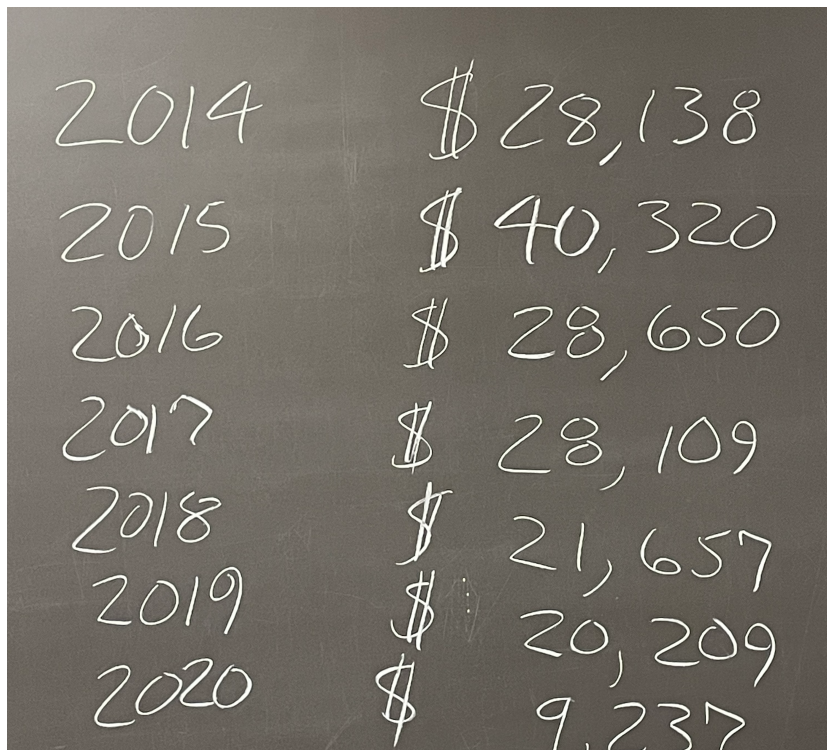
1. Raffle - David Ehler/Felipe Pacheco
2. Meal - Dwayne David/Candelaria Escobar Castro/Zeneida Kelley
3. Publicity - Eugene Holub/Nancy Zenner
4. Games - Martha Jeffcoat/ Jean Darby
5. Auction - Benito Castilla
6. Entertainment (Music/bingo) - Julia Cardona/Erika Rivera
7. Financial/Records - Benito Castilla/members of Finance Council
8. Risk Management/Security - Pete Zenner/Kenny Svrcek

Father John joined us late and Pete caught him up on what we had discussed earlier. He brought in a letter from the Diocese that says for any festival, you need a designated Risk Manager.

Nancy asked if they had sold beer at previous festivals and were told "yes". The KC's have a liquor license. Pete mentioned that at previous parishes they had sold beer by donation and they felt they made more

money than if they sold it. The Knights typically keep the monies made from the beer sales. Nancy asked if the KC's would consider giving a percentage of sales to the parish.

We talked about not being able to locate the information about previous fundraisers. Eugene said that he knew where it was and got the notebook



2014	\$ 28,138
2015	\$ 40,320
2016	\$ 28,650
2017	\$ 28,109
2018	\$ 21,657
2019	\$ 20,209
2020	\$ 9,237

Profit from Church Festivals at St. Joseph's Church

and put the following on the board for us to see. The income in 2015, according to David Ehler, was an ATV that was donated to the raffle by a parishoner who also purchased \$1,000 worth of raffle tickets and won it back. It appears that the Mayfest didn't happen after 2020. David Ehler said he thought there was a bank account for festivals. Father said there is money but it's no longer a separate account.

Nancy asked if we wanted to go ahead and decide on a name for the festival. Would it remain the Mayfest as in previous years or should it be St. Joseph Festival after our patron saint, St. Joseph the worker. Julia Cardona suggested that we combine the name to be St. Joseph Mayfest.

All committee members agreed with this suggestion. Zeneida suggested that we have an official letter from the church that we use to talk to businesses about making donations for our festival auction and raffle. Two people go together and present the letter to business owners.

Committee chairs will talk and start planning for their respective committees. Nancy said that she would make information that she has obtained from Tonya Sulak from Holy Family Catholic Church in Lexington, to appropriate committee chairs. Once we have things planned out, Eugene stated that we could send a message to parishoners via Flocknote to get input on what committees they would like to help with as well as things they would like to see included in the festival.

Next meeting date is set for Monday, November 24, 2026 @ 6 PM.

Submitted by Nancy Zenner

Father John led us in a closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.
Recorded by Nancy Zenner