

St. Francis of Assisi Leadership Meeting
July 15, 2025-7:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Doug Cluxton
Adriana Gambach

Frank Conway
Louis Schulte

Opening Prayer

Council/Committee Reports:

- Finance Council:
 - Yard Sale: \$3,866.14 total
 - Inside sales: \$2,054.43
 - Outside sales: \$545.25
 - Food: \$833.50
 - Silver: \$432.96
 - The project to publish the church bulletin in the office has been cancelled. The contract with the vendor was automatically renewed with no changes to the contract. Currently, the vendor secures advertisers for the back page ad section and prints the bulletins for the parish at no cost.
 - As of June 30, 2025, the end of the church fiscal year, the parish has a positive cash flow of \$13,549.00
 - Budget: Adriana needs budget for next year by next Leadership Meeting.
- Pastoral Council
 - A flyer was developed and distributed to selected sites in the Victorian Village neighborhood, e.g. at coffee shops, condo and apartment community residences (in the common areas, not door-to-door), library, etc. This flyer highlights the new Mass times and invites people to visit and join us.
 - A pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio is being planned.
Please note: These details are not confirmed at present, but the following is under consideration:
 - * Target date is Sat., October 25
 - * Leave SFA by bus to Carey (90 minutes) by 8:30 a.m.
 - * Mass will be at 11 am at the shrine
 - * Fr. Antony will concelebrate the Mass.
 - * Visit includes a tour of the Basilica and Shrine and a blessing after Mass
 - * There are also Stations of the Cross on site in the shrine park.
 - * Only cost to participants will be for lunch near the shrine.
 - * The cost is \$12 or \$15 per person. Transportation is being covered by two members of the parish.
 - Pastoral Council members are writing intentions to be a part of the Prayer of the Faithful for Sunday Masses during the month of October. These intentions will

highlight themes of care for creation, stewardship of the earth's resources, ecology, care for the poor, etc.

- Stewardship
 - Commitment Sunday will be held November 2, 2025. Discussed talking points to be made from the ambo during the month of October to focus on Time, Talent and Treasure.
- Liturgy-July meeting notes attached
 - Volunteer Appreciation Evening: This came up as a result of our suggestion to honor our youth liturgical ministers in some way. Father Antony preferred not to recognize only one group of people but rather include all volunteers in the parish. He suggested a weekday evening Mass to include a prayer of commitment by the volunteers sometime in September or October. Since we already have an evening Mass on Fridays, perhaps Friday would work. Then I spoke with Cathy Meacham on Sunday, and she suggested something similar, but in the context of a garden party and during the summer. The Liturgy Committee could certainly take care of the Mass and commitment ritual, but maybe Stewardship could take on the refreshment part?
 - St. Francis of Assisi Patronal Feast: This event will take place on October 5th, 2025. Father Antony would rather keep both Masses and have the annual picnic after the 11:00 Mass because there are always people who will forget that there is one Mass or visitors might be misled by having one Mass.
 - Changes: Renee will be resigning from the Liturgy Ministry committee at the end of the Church year. Paula Vasey has agreed to chair the committee beginning in December. Doug Cluxton will be scheduling the writers of the Prayer of the Faithful starting January 1, 2026. Renee is also giving up training the liturgical ministers and her position on the Leadership Team. Someone will need to assume her role of scheduling and training liturgical ministers. It would be optimal to have them in place by November to schedule December.
The Leadership Team appreciates Renee's work with the Team and her role as chair of the Liturgy Committee. Our parish has benefitted from her dedication and devotion and thanks her for her service.

Old Business:

- Goals Update
 - Diane Bowling and Kathy Dancey have submitted updates from their Religious Education/OCIA programs (see attachments). The updates will be provided to parishioners as bulletin inserts.

- **NNEMAP Food Drive**

- The parish will conduct a Food Drive to support NNEMAP starting August 1, - September 30, 2025. A flyer will be used to promote the Drive as well as announcements from the ambo. Cards will be placed in the pews listing NNEMAP most requested items to be used as a shopping list. As part of our discussion, it was asked how we can measure effectiveness of a dedicated Food Drive.

New Business:

- **Help Wanted**

- Marti Damm has requested to be replaced as chair of the parish Yard Sale. After much discussion Stewardship has volunteered to take the lead on the annual parish Yard Sale.
- Since Renee is resigning from the Liturgy Committee someone will need to assume her monthly duties scheduling & training all liturgical ministers.
- The SFA Garden Crew would like to host a SFA Garden Sips and Dips Party. This would be a casual social evening to celebrate the beauty of the parish gardens. Leadership Committee supports the event and, after reviewing the proposed dates, thought Friday, September 5, 2025 following Friday night Mass would be the best date. Louis to handle bulletin announcements and will coordinate with Kathy Meacham.

Calendar

Aug. 15-Assumption-7:00 pm Mass

Next Meeting: August 19, 2025

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI LITURGY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF MEETING ON JULY 8, 2025

The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the church is directed; it is also the source from which all its power flows. (SC #10)

Reflect

- Pentecost – The Sequence procession at 11:30 and Prayer of the Faithful in other languages at both Masses were done well. The ribbons on the mobile needed to be arranged more attractively.
- The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Procession at the end of the 11:30 Mass was nicely done, except the assembly was not familiar with the response during Benediction. Perhaps a worship aid insert will help when Exposition / Benediction is planned.

Plan / Celebrate

Summer Ordinary Time

- Reviewed the Gospel readings for Summer Ordinary Time.
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Friday, August 15, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Other Things to Consider

- Pat suggested singing a more familiar Marian hymn during the May Crowning ritual to encourage participation.
- Discussed the possibility of a Volunteer Appreciation Evening – perhaps a weekday evening with celebration of Mass and a Prayer of Committal. Maybe work with Leadership Team on this.
- Discussion about possible speakers for Morning of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers. Perhaps ask Doug Cluxton about speaker they retained for Pastoral Council. Father Antony may still be out of town; anticipates arriving back either Friday evening or Saturday morning.
- Suggestion about including an instruction in the worship aid about bowing during the Creed as we do about striking breast during Confiteor.
- Counting hosts for consecration – Father asked that we add 30 hosts to the count of people attending Sunday Masses to be sure there are sufficient consecrated hosts in the tabernacle.

Calendar Issues

- St. Francis of Assisi Patronal Feast – Father said we should keep both Masses and have the annual picnic following the 11:00 Mass instead of having just one Mass at 10:00.
- All Saints Day – On Saturday this year, so not a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate the Vigil Mass at the regular 6:00 p.m. Mass on Friday.
- All Souls Day – On Sunday this year. There are several permitted readings for this Commemoration, so we will print the *Ordo* readings and place them in the black binder instead of using the *Lectionary for Mass*. Also, we will do the annual memorial ritual on All Souls Day, instead of All Saints Day.

- Immaculation Conception – on Monday this year and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Antony and Fr. Reddy will renew their religious vows. Also we will offer the Immaculate Conception Novena each evening at 6:30 beginning Saturday, November 29. We will need to publicize the Novena well in order to encourage good attendance.
- Christmas Masses – We will go back to Masses at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- Mary, Mother of God – On Thursday this year, and a Holy Day of Obligation. 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Schedule of meetings (second Tuesday of the month)

August 12, 2025

September 9, 2025

October 14, 2025

November 11, 2025

December 9, 2025

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Religious Education Program for Children

Our religion program for children met at 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday mornings.

We use the Pflaum Weekly readers to guide our lessons. This program focuses on the Gospel readings for the day. The children will then hear the Gospel during Mass and gain more information from Father Antony's homilies. Additionally, we add instructions about Saints, Holy Days and other Catholic information that is important to know and practice.

We begin and end our lessons with a prayer. We have created Prayer Booklets for the children to learn traditional prayers.

Our enrollment for this past school year:

Kindergarten/First Grade – 3 students

Second Grade – 12 students

Third Grade – 2 students

Fourth Grade and higher – 3 students

Our teaching staff: 4 volunteers, 1 church employee

All of our teachers are members of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Three of our teachers are classroom teachers within the Diocese of Columbus or Columbus City Schools. Our other teachers have been with our program for a few years.

We were blessed to have ten children receive their First Holy Communion in May 2025. This school year, we did not have any students within the required grade/age who were preparing for Confirmation.

We hope our enrollment grows as our parish membership increases. I am hopeful with the growth of our surrounding area that our program for the children will grow, as well.

Mrs. Diane Bowling, Coordinator for Religious Education for Children Program

St. Francis of Assisi OCIA Process January 2024-June 2025

January 2024 – September 29, 2024: **4** individuals completed the initiation process.

June 2024 – June 16, 2025 : **3** individuals completed the initiation process.

June 16, 2025 - **3** new inquirers.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) offers Christian formation and education to unbaptized persons considering membership in the Catholic Church. The initiation process is about conversion or *metanoia* – a change of heart - that frees us to accept and be transformed by God's love through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

The OCIA process is also the path for adults baptized in another Christian Church who wish to be in full communion with the Catholic Church. Reverencing their valid Baptism, the Christian candidates celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, make a Profession of Faith, and then celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

St. Francis of Assisi parish offers a year-round initiation process so that we may welcome people when they have discerned a desire to join the Catholic Church.

On February 4, 2024, our parish celebrated the Rite of Welcoming with three baptized persons (Jordan Myers, Gyeongcheol Cho, and James Farwig). They were received into the Catholic Church at a **Rite of Reception celebrated on April 28, 2024**, the 5th Sunday of Easter.

In June of 2024, we welcomed to the process three unbaptized persons and one baptized person. Inquiry sessions were held during the summer. On Sunday, September 1, 2024, the **Rite of Acceptance** was celebrated with the three unbaptized persons (Bryan Montoya Vargas, Ana Montoya Vargas, Brianna Vargas); the **Rite of Welcoming** was celebrated with the baptized candidate (James Shannonhouse). Bryan, Ana and Brianna continued attending the Catechumenate sessions of the initiation process.

We celebrated the Rite of Reception with James on Sunday, September 29, 2024, when he made a Profession of Faith and celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Bryan, Ana and Brianna celebrated the Rite of Sending for Election and the Rite of Election with Bishop Fernandes on the first Sunday of Lent, March 9, 2025. **They celebrated the initiation Sacraments during the Easter Vigil, April 19, 2025.** They continued attending sessions in the last period of the initiation process (Mystagogy) through June 16, 2025.

As of June 16, we have three people participating in the Inquiry process.