

St Ambrose Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

7PM, Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Present: Dave Rutten, Paul Rahn, Marilyn Thornburg, Bronwen Grody, Father Albert Kemboi, Msgr. Michael Hazard, Mary Hentschl-Early, Terry Nobis, Jim Cousino (via phone)

Absent: Judie Maliszewski, Janet Ouellette-Westra, Greg Adamczyk

Opening Prayer: St. Ambrose Pastoral Council Prayer

Tonight's Meeting Minutes: Digital recording edited/summarized by Jim Cousino.

Next Parish Council Meeting: July 8 @ 7PM.

New Parish Council Member: Terry Nobis introduced to council body as new member.

Parish Financial Report: Bronwen offered a financial summary through March. We are much better than last year so far through March, but we expect parish April financials to be in the red when grounds improvement bills are paid. Adjusted basis measures, which eliminate items beyond our control, will remain in the black. Contracted services, primarily snow removal and lawn care, are up this year primarily because of frequent snow events. The DeYoung contract is up for renewal this year.

FY26 Budget Status: The currently proposed 2026 fiscal year budget projects a net profit of \$3,947. Remaining unknown items include the Catholic Schools Assessment and the diocesan proposal for shared (among parishes) expenses including the priest who covers regional senior living facilities, the Mt. Olivet caretaker, and similar items. The budget includes 2.2% increase for salaries (counter-inflationary adjustment), 7% in medical insurance, \$100,000 for capital outlay focused primarily on Parish Activity Center improvements. FY26 budget will be submitted by June 15th deadline.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults Update: The focus at this time of year centers on identifying potential candidates for the fall program. Father Albert and Eileen are discussing plans for next year's program. Eileen has proposed that she would like to retire. Father would like her to renew for another year.

Religious Education: We ended our Religious Education program with our three First Holy Communicants celebrating that sacrament. We will be hosting Vacation Bible School this year on July 22nd-24th from 5-6:30PM. Since this is our first offering after many years of not doing so, we plan a shortened version. Our theme is "Diving Deeper into God's Love". We recently offered the Goretti Project to educate children about safe and appropriate behaviors. Of the 33 students enrolled in this year's religious education classes, parents of 26 students opted for their children to participate and parents of 7 students opted out.

Parish Attendance & Web Traffic:

- Weekly Church attendance is steadily increasing from previous years. April average attendance was 411, which was 121% of the overall average primarily because of Lent and Easter.
- Weekly attendance for live-streamed masses was similarly higher. Holy Thursday (23 views), Good Friday (17 views) and Elias Miado's funeral (117 views) demonstrate the continued need for this service.
- The website was visited 677 times during April. Facebook was engaged by 403 users.

Strategic Plan: Fr. Albert said the Committee has made good progress. The plan when completed will be reviewed with Parish Council.

Parish Activity Center: This item was covered during discussion of FY26 Budget. New signage (\$1,685) is planned for both inside and outside the Center. Painting (\$12,395) will be paid after July 1. Bids for commercial window replacements have been requested. We are also looking into why building electricity usage is high.

Easter Review: Discussion focused on potential improvements for next year's Easter Week liturgies. Practice in advance for every service was suggested. Verbal directions to Holy Saturday attendees for how to always hold lighted candles vertically to prevent wax drips was suggested.

Miscellaneous New Business: Father Albert announced the following:

- Grounds improvement earlier today on May 13 went well.
- The parish will host a Central Deanery meeting on Friday, May 16. Bishop Lohse will come for fellowship after the dinner meeting.
- Father Albert and Monsignor Mike plan to visit our Sister Parish in Guatemala next week.
- Father Jim Morris will celebrate this Saturday evening's Mass since Father Albert and Monsignor Mike are participating in the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Christ's Passion.

2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA): We have reached 63% of our parish target as of last week with 17% of parishioners participating. The Diocese is keeping up well with processing and reporting weekly to parishes.

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary and Blessing (All)