



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2026
6:30 pm
Multi-purpose Room at Sacred Heart Office

Present: Fr. Steve Garner, Fr. Jeff Frieden, Ben Schroeder, Kate Heitz, Joe Heston, John Kruse, Jeff Jochum, Tim Scheller, Brooke Pfeiffer, Terry Pape, and Raegan Reid. Absent: Becky Seymour and Jen Hayes.

6:30pm – Meeting began with prayer by Fr. Steve.

Pastoral Council minutes from January 27, 2025 were reviewed. Ben Schroeder made a motion to approve, Brooke Pfeiffer seconded the motion, and all approved.

Pastor's Report for February was included in the materials for all to review. Fr. Steve then gave a brief recap highlighting some the efforts of the committee meetings which had taken place this past month:

Faith Formation:

- The current group going through the IMPACT Leadership program offered by the archdiocese will be concluding its two-year program on May 3rd with a ceremony offered at Resurrection at 10:30 am on May 3rd. From our parish, we have Jeff and Kim Schmidt, Jen Hayes and Beth Kennedy who will be completing the program.
- We will be offering Bible Study and Reflection for the upcoming weekend Scripture Readings on Mondays during Lent at 7:30 pm at Paraclete Hall at Holy Ghost.
- Reminder about our CEW Retreats coming up in March. All are encouraged to invite people to attend.
- Confirmation is scheduled for May 10. We have 13 from our downtown parishes who will be receiving this sacrament. Please keep them in your prayers.
- 1st Communion is scheduled for the 9:30 am Mass at Holy Ghost on May 4th. Please keep these students in your prayers as well.
- NCYC: We do have a few from our parish registered for this event. We hope more will sign-up as the event draws nearer.
- Totus Tuus summer program will take place at Resurrection Church this year with Fr. Bob Gross taking the lead.
- The committee is working on putting together a bus trip to Our Lady of Guadeloupe in La Cross this Spring. More on this as it develops.

(The parish Lenten Flyer was included in the materials handed out at the pastoral council meeting which included our faith formation opportunities offered during Lent.)

Parish Life:

- Renewal Day for Persons with Disabilities originally scheduled for March 3rd, will be postponed until sometime this Fall. Funds gathered for this retreat will be set aside to be used at that time.
- Still waiting for the Pictorial Directory (no word yet on its completion)
- We have one young lady (Rosa) who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil this year, and so the PL committee will help host a reception (with snacks and beverages) afterward. Let us keep her in our prayers.

Evangelization:

- Committee members will be on information and witness blurbs for the bulletin at their next meeting.
- Committee also discussed working on ways to involve young adults and youth in our parish in Evangelization efforts.

Liturgy:

- Christmas Liturgies were reviewed.
- Discussed preparation for Lent Season
- Discussed reviving putting some liturgy tidbits in the bulletin.

Social Justice:

- The Parish Almsgiving Project for this Lent will go toward supporting St. Vincent De Paul and the Dubuque Rescue Mission
- Community "Movie Night" will take place in August again this year due to date conflicts in May.
- Also, we are in need of more volunteers to help serve on this committee.

Finance:

- Jeff Jochum gave a review of our finances. We had some big expenses go out in January (ie: Priests Insurance, Parish Insurance with the Archdiocese, ect.). We are in good shape however and are on par with the budget.
- Fr. Steve mentioned that we have completed the preliminary stage of updating our census (reaching out to those who have not contributed or participated in parish events or at Mass.) We sent-out about 850 letters and have heard back from about 100 of them.

Holy Family Catholic Schools:

- HFCS January report was provided for all to review.

Next, Fr. Steve reviewed with us "**Know your Rights – Immigration**" that was recently presented to the clergy. We review the definition of an immigrant and the different categories or classifications: Legal, Refugee, Asylee, Temporary Legal Presence, and Undocumented. We also discuss the impact of the current policy implemented recently by President Trump (the rescinding of the policy of limited enforcement action and the reinstatement of expedited removal.) Fr. Steve encouraged all to review the video from the archdiocese at: <https://catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/kyr>, and he talked about getting this information to those in our parish who have immigrant status.

Finally, we review the next assigned portion of the Archdiocesan "Framework for Evangelization and Adult Formation" (pages 10 & 11). We had good discussion and sharing by the committee—of how it is easier to evangelize to a stranger than someone you know, the openness of meeting people where they are at and engaging in conversation, and not to be judgmental.

Meeting concluded with a prayer (Our Father).