

**Peace of Christ
Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025**

Council Members Present: Karen DeFord, Anthony Nozzi, Steven Michalkow, Lisa Dwyer, Steve Wilson, Kevin Russell, Miguel Dominguez, Suzanne Stack, Mark Figura,
Parish Representatives Present: Fr. Peter Mottola
Excused: Thomas Flaherty, Fr. Tim Brown, Lisa Dwyer
Recording Secretary: William Rein

Meeting Opened at 7:00 pm

Opening Prayer – Father Peter led the opening prayer.

Proposed New Items/Updates to Future Agendas

- Security protocol and communication need further discussion at a future meeting, urgency has risen based on national events
 - Possible actions:
 - Develop talking points to parishioners
 - Further training for ushers
- Potential changes to Sunday Mass Schedule in 2026 proposed as a future agenda item
 - Conversation included the message that no more changes besides the recent daily Mass changes are planned in 2025. The next review will take place in 2026.
 - A larger conversation with parish when more information is available would be beneficial

Approval of June 10th Meeting Minutes – were approved by Mark Figura and seconded by Miguel Dominguez, with amendment to Pastoral Council Chair.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Peter Mottola

- St. Ambrose Academy update – 125 students enrolled, 20 more than last year, biggest enrollment in many years. Second section of pre-K. Only 5 students came from Kateri closure. Donors help fund children from Cabrini parish to attend SAA. Spanish language support was identified as needed. Giving Circle exceeded 100K target in the first year. Giving Circle breakfast went very well.
- Bible Studies update - last week started a new bible study, we now have two sessions offered to parishioners, Tuesday nights 7:15pm at St. John's Hall, and Wednesday morning 9:30am.
- Converge Young Adult ministry Converge continues to see growth and higher numbers at events. Now, Church of the Assumption, and St. Josephs in Penfield, St. John of Rochester have been added. As a ministry result, several people have been received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.
- Parish Picnic success – excited to see intergenerational component of this event, start to finish. Well attended. Overall, a very positive and fun event.
- North Winton Village Festival – great location near the entrance. Encountered many people with great conversations. Many parishioners were involved. Several conversations with members from our community who aren't rooted within the Christian tradition.
- Sept 27 CMA kickoff reception & diocesan goals – This Saturday, 9/27 9am, CMA kickoff in St. John's Hall. This year's big push is to increase the number of donors, with incentives to lower your goal with a 10% increase.

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- Sun 28 Restore Health & Wellness tour – This Sunday, 9/28 at 1pm, Peace of Christ is having a tour of Restore Health and Wellness on 1880 E. Ridge Rd. A new Catholic medical & health center opened in Rochester. A chapel is located within the center.
- Oct 25 Chili cookoff – save the date! A good opportunity to engage our parish.
- Diocese is emerging from bankruptcy. The school is now open to new grants that are not available to organizations going through bankruptcy

Pastoral Council Organizing for Strategic Plan Implementation – general discussion

- Our role as Pastoral Council members in choosing a strategic goal: not running things, but in a role for liaison for support. Support parishioners in communication, sometimes to parish staff, sometimes to priests. After engaging with parishioners leading activities, share key messages with the Pastoral Council.
- Council members were asked to rate top three goals you would be interested in supporting
- Our role: voice of guidance and dialogue
- After a few months into our pastoral council goal assignment, we should consider sharing council member's contact information to encourage dialogue

Initial list of council members as focal points for Strategic Plan Goals:

- Ensure Spiritual Growth: Steven M, Kevin and Miguel supporting
- Grow Lay Participation in the Church: Lisa, and Steve W
- Grow the number of POC Parishioners (Evangelization): Miguel and Mark
- Ensure the Ongoing Viability of St. Ambrose Academy: Anthony
- Support Vocational Growth in the Parish: Miguel and Kevin
- Support Service Outreach of the Parish: Suzanne

Opportunities for flexibility, and we can adjust as necessary.

Actions:

- Anthony continues to work on aligning existing activities to Goals.
- Council members are asked to continue to review the details of the goals, especially the goals for which they are the focal point.

Open Forum

- N. Winton Festival, potential agenda item for next meeting, encourage Lisa Dwyer to speak further about this event. A discussion on planning, support needed and overall, how event went.
- Potential agenda item to receive an update on Time Talent Treasure feedback.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment at 8:26pm.

Future Meeting Schedule: December 9th, February 10th, April 28th, June 9th