

## Suburban Southwest Deanery Assembly Meeting

St. Basil the Great

November 14, 2025 - 12:00p

- The meeting began with an opening prayer by Fr. Ryan Mann, followed by a luncheon.
- Tommy Dome, Next Steps Minister at St. Basil provided the welcome and guidance on what the Deanery is meant to be.
- Robert Koonce, Director of Deanery Operations and Planning for the Diocese of Cleveland gave an overview. Deaneries are meant to be a governance structure in which programs can flow. The Dean (Fr. Tim Gareau) has been given full authority from the Bishop.
  - The purpose of the deanery is:
    1. Better care for one another
    2. Lesson the bottlenecks
    3. Increase accountability
    4. Develop localized pastoral plans that align with the Bishop's priorities
- The Deanery Chair (Deacon Keith Walcutt) works with the Deanery Committee (representatives from each of the eighteen parishes) to assess what is working and not working and leads the effort to prioritize needs and develop proposals to address those needs.
- The Deanery Pastoral plan is a method of coordinating ministries, sharing resources, providing formation for staff and others, and creating new initiatives.
- Roza Hering, Associate Business Manager, Assumption Parish and a member of the Deanery Committee, provided a witness. She spoke of the importance of collaboration in building up one Church. We are meant to be connected. Change is hard but she reminded us of what Pope Francis told us, we must keep moving forward in life and in faith – with courage and with joy. We must be like moving water. When water flows, it brings life. But when it stops, it becomes stagnant – and eventually, it turns bad.
- Fr. Tim spoke about the richness in the Suburban Southwest Deanery. He reminded us that we need to be “Church,” to help each other, and reach out to one another. It is our role to lead others to Jesus.
- Deacon Keith shared some of the priorities we have been asked to address in our plan, such as Mass times, Reconciliation opportunities, Eucharistic Adoration, Marriage preparation/mentor couples. The Deanery Assembly will meet twice a year. The Pastoral Plan will happen over a three-year period. This is a process, and he is thankful to everyone for taking time from their day to participate.

- Each parish was given a folder and asked to provide one submission per parish to Tommy Dome, by December 31. Information we are looking to gather is the following:
  1. Marriage
    - Number of marriages celebrated each of the past 3 years
    - Staff member in charge of marriage preparation at your parish
    - Do you have mentor couples? If so, how many?
  2. Current full list of parish ministries
  3. Ministries most willing and capable of sharing, collaborating, and training
  4. Most pressing parish need(s)?
  
- Breakout sessions (by ministry) were held at the end of the meeting giving the attendees an opportunity to meet one another and share information about their respective parishes.