

Suburban Southwest (SSW) Deanery Meeting
St. Albert the Great
April 22, 2026



- Deacon Jerry Blanda began the meeting with the Lectio Divina for the Fourth Week of Easter followed by a reflective discussion with the committee members.

Marriage Mentoring

- Terri Yohman and Joe Mikolajczyk from the Diocese of Cleveland, presented information on the new Marriage Mentoring initiative. The goal is to move away from the “check the box” preparation by enhancing existing procedures and implementing best practices.
- The Deanery goal would be to create sustainable marriage ministries in alignment with the Diocesan guidelines for marriage formation.
- Our Deanery will select a liaison to work with the Office of Marriage and Family Ministry. This individual would serve as a link and help share what the Diocese has to offer (speakers, resources, etc.) and make us aware of any upcoming events. They would coordinate a deanery-wide calendar of marriage enrichment events and marriage mentoring assignments.
- The Diocese is in the process of revitalizing their Marriage Mentoring program. Training sessions will be 2-3 sessions of two hours each, or one session of six hours. Terri provided a **draft** of the guidelines and the form that will be completed by potential ministering couples. It is important to note that the priest/pastor will be the one to invite couples from their parish to serve as mentors.

Sub-Committee reports:

- a. Marriage Mentoring - they will be meeting again and utilize the information that was presented today.
- b. Mass and Confession Schedules - have not met, but it was noted that there are only a couple parishes that offer evening Mass. With the distance between the churches, Father Tim requested that they group the parishes into clusters to better determine the needs.
- c. Youth/Young Adult Ministries - have not met yet.
- d. Staff Formation - Will not be discussed - too soon to look at.

General Information

- Eric Perusek shared information on St. Columbkille’s Catching Fire, their young adult ministry. He would like them to come to the next Assembly Meeting (July) to share

what they are all about. Eric felt that Assembly Meetings would provide an opportunity to highlight different groups.

- Roza has a new email for Deanery purposes: Deanery_SubSW@dioceseofcleveland.org this email is for her role as the Deanery Chair, and for next person who replaces her.
- She shared information about a new SharePoint Site for the committee.
- Our next meeting is June 17 in the Hospitality Room at St. Anthony of Padua.
- Father Tim concluded the meeting with a prayer and blessing.