# Christ Our Light Unified Pastoral Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Marion Industrial Park

**PRAYER & REFLECTION –**
Abby Moeller led the council in scripture from The First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (Corinthians 1:26-31). Erin Niekamp read aloud a short segment of Pope Leo XIV October 2025 homily. The council joined in comment and reflection of the readings. In addition, the council provided intercession prayers for our community, family and friends.

**ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD 2027 & BEACONS OF LIGHT -**

- Synod 2027 https://catholicaoc.org/synod-2027 is a time of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another, culminating in a general assembly with representatives of the clergy, vowed religious, and laity to assist the local bishop. Synod 2027 will be an engagement of our whole archdiocese to consider what the Holy Spirit may be asking of the Church of Cincinnati at this moment. The goal will be to discern needs and recommend pastoral priorities for the future to Archbishop Casey.
- Nick Wilker reviewed the five Beacons of Light Phases, which have been completed and which are to come. Culture is in progress. While families of parishes throughout the Archdiocese are at varying levels of progress, Christ Our Light has been listed as a leading Family. We've grown from many of the items they have provided or supported.
    Phase 1 – Leadership is complete
    Phase 2 – Vision is complete
    Phase 3 – Culture is in progress. We are working with our diocesan liaison, Don Frericks, and staff for the Center for Pastoral Vitality (CPV) to complete a staff survey on our culture and where we can make improvements. Should hopefully be completed by summer.
    Phase 4 – Planning is not started
    Phase 5 – Mission is not started
- The Beacons of Light slated for all phases to be completed by June 2027. Many Families have not completed all phases of planning. We are constantly noted as a family that is exceeding expectations and moving with more efficiency than other families. The CPV realizes that not all families have planned all phases. This will become a stand-alone process after June 2027. The COL Family still intends to plan for each phase.

**FAMILY UNITY DISCERNMENT (FUD) 2026-2027**

**The Process & Participants:**
https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/parish-vitality/family-unity-discernment The Family Unity Discernment is an evaluation process pertaining to specific aspects detailed to each parish. It.is a synodal process (working in collaboration with others) that begins with a Deanery wide gathering. It will entail detailed investigation and completion of two forms assessing (1) Financial and Sacramental Trends and (2) Facilities. The forms intend to assess financial viability into the future and functionable longevity for each of our parishes and buildings. There

will be a process to discern possible Canonical Unification and the best use of resources including buildings, finances and personnel. It will conclude with a second Deanery wide gathering. The time line for our St. Augustine Deanery is Spring 2027.

The Forms:
Family Financial Data

- A part of the FUD, this portion details the financial functionality of the parish. It gathers parish viability information to assess the current and long-term ability to support itself.

Deferred Maintenance Excel Checklist

- Deferred Maintenance examines structural needs and projections of the physical aspects of a parish. Many of our parishes have already done this, or have already begun to evaluate our past, current and future needs of our buildings.
- There was discussion on how this performance evaluation could be conducted to ensure uniformity and accuracy between each of the parishes within COL Family. Fr Ken provided that there are consultation groups that help support this process at a relatively inexpensive cost.

The Time Line

- The COL Family belongs to the St Augustine Deanery (SAD). The SAD intends to establish a systematic support system to aid each family to complete this process. The COL is currently scheduled to go last, February - April 2027.

What happens from here? The Synodal process will ultimately provide a proposal for Canonical Unification. How are we dealing with things as a Family? The AOC has been understanding if we are not ready for this by July of 2027. The process will help us decide if we are ready or not for canonical unification, give reasons why and create a plan for next steps.

**CHRIST OUR LIGHT UPDATES**

Director of Evangelization transition

- Jodie is transitioning in her role to part time Evangelization across COL while moving away from administrative and supervisory roles. Nick was helping oversee CRE's and RE before Jody came on, and will do so again on a temporary basis. Jody has gone back to her strengths in a part time position. Looking at some sort of Human Resource person or contractual arrangement that could help us with this.

Director of Communications hiring process

- Looking to fill this position. Sarah has been holding two part time positions and will be transitioning to full time CRE Holy Redeemer. Several other families of parishes are also looking for the same position. It is a challenge to find the right person for the right position. Backfilling the responsibilities on an interim basis. Have priorities and responsibilities (like the bulletin) so that these items are being completed. Facebook, bulletins, much of what is being done is still happening within the individual parishes to help at this point. We need to be able to find someone who can handle many responsibilities for this position. Things are not on the back burner, just need to develop before we can move forward.

Evangelization - Adult Faith Formation offerings

- She Shall Be Called Woman
- Grief Share
- First Fridays of Recollection
- Mens Lenton Speakers Series
- Chosen discussion groups
- St Monica Book Club
- 6 Christ Renews His Parish Retreats
- Variety of Lenten programs (calendars, black books)
- Parish Mission with Dynamic Deacon Harold in Nov-Dec, 2026

2026 Lent, Holy Week, & Easter Mass Schedule (see below)

- Very much the same as last year.

**CHRIST OUR LIGHT FAMILY PARISH EVENTS & UPDATES**

Holy Redeemer:
Elections coming up, long term plans (5 and 10 year plans), they will be starting Calming the Storm ministry soon.

Precious Blood:
Last meeting in January where they brought on the new officers, first time all together, picked out a roof color for the new metal church roof, new lights in the parking lights will be installed, they are collectively working on the 5 year plan, they have a new maintenance committee and director, both men and women's sodalities had their socials, there is a leak in the east wing entrance being addressed, new insulation near the elevator being added.

St Johns:
They will provide cookies and punch after the Feb 22 mass, there is a community meeting Feb 22 @ 6:30pm to introduce the architect team, learn about latest updates and seek community input about the church. They are close to having an architect which was delayed because of the collapse of the wall; which required revisions in the scope and design proposal. The collapse of the West wall and concern of the tower falling onto SR 119, required immediate action and quick demolition of the church and tower. WIth the risk of tower falling mitigated, FIRST ONSITE began seeking estimates for salvaging the sandstone facade, demolition of the remaining structure, hauling off debris, backfilling the site and planting grass for erosion control. Some bricks will be kept for memorial purposes. It will take 7 to 8 weeks to complete the work.

St Sebastian:
Will be getting a new organ, next parish meeting will be Feb 22.

St Rose:
No major projects, window moisture and paint chipping will need to be addressed soon.

Nativity:
They have replaced the rectory soffit and downspouts, tiling drainage will need to be completed soon, they are working on the deferred maintenance plan,

St. Augustine:
Parish council elections, was 1 opening, CRE hiring is on its way, and has been covered by volunteers currently, waiting on scaffolding for the steeples, the project has been delayed because of this, automatic locks have been installed in church, new ramp is being installed that is heated, they will be resealing steps

St. Joseph:
Meeting last week, 1 opening available on the council, parishioners discussed pavement of the parking lot (great turn out and ideas!), they have discussed the deferred maintenance items,

**OTHER CONCERNS & QUESTIONS**:
Election of new Vice Chair in April

**CONCLUDING PRAYER - BEACONS OF LIGHT PRAYER**
Fr Schnipke led us in the concluding prayer.

**NEXT MEETING**
Thursday, April 9, 2026 at St Augustine Rectory Basement

**ATTENDANCE**

Fr Ken Schnipke
Nick Wilker
Amy Bergman
Erin Niekamp
Sue Bruns
Jenny Albers
Barb Kahlig
Abby Moeller
Pam Meyer
Stacie Enneking
Cory Ahrens
Adam Koesters
Dan Fortkamp
Tony Homan
Linda Baker

# Lent, Holy Week, Easter Mass Schedule 2026

**Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026**

7:15am Precious Blood
8:00am St. Augustine
12:00am St. John at Precious Blood
12:00am St. Augustine Liturgy of Word with Ashes
12:05am Holy Redeemer Liturgy of Word with Ashes
4:30am Holy Redeemer
5:30am St. John at Precious Blood
6:00am Holy Redeemer
6:30am St. Augustine
7:00am St. Joseph
7:30am Precious Blood

**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper – April 2, 2026**

5:30pm St. John at Precious Blood
7:00pm St. Augustine
7:30pm Holy Redeemer
7:30pm Precious Blood

**Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion – April 3, 2026**

12:00pm St. John at Precious Blood
12:30pm St. Augustine
1:00pm Holy Redeemer
2:30pm Precious Blood

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – April 4, 2026**

8:45pm St. Augustine
8:45pm St. John at Precious Blood

**Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026**

7:00am St. Augustine
7:00am Holy Redeemer
7:00am St. John at Precious Blood
8:00am Nativity
8:30am St. Sebastian
9:00am St. Augustine
9:00am Holy Redeemer
9:00am Precious Blood
10:00am St. Rose
10:30am St. Joseph
11:00am St. Augustine
11:00am Holy Redeemer
11:00am St. John at Precious Blood