

**St. Ambrose Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for March 26, 2024
7:30 p.m. Foyer**

Present: Greg Schmidt, Kevin Kinahan, Fr. Ian, Deacon Peter, Elizabeth Sutton, Lynne Schaaf, Dave Schaaf, Shelley Lohues, Harley Packer, Denise Roosen

Not Available: Bonnie Sturm, Brent Christensen, Martha Lopez, and Dennis Cote

1. Opening Prayer - Fr. Ian led the group in prayer.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved. Moved - Kevin Seconded – Denise, CARRIED.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting from Jan 30, 2024

Motion: That the Minutes be approved as submitted. Moved - Kevin Seconded – Lynne, CARRIED.

4. Finance Report – Elizabeth

No report as Leanne, the bookkeeper, has not provided information for the February financials. Will include report on February & March financial at next meeting.

5. Pastor's Report – Fr. Ian

- a) The Diocese is encouraging the use of the Personality Dimension assessment as part of team building (DISC).
- b) The Deanery has requested that Fr. Ian continue to cover Milk River.
- c) Deacon Peter will be doing some upcoming Baptisms.
- d) 1st Communion classes are starting in the parish.

6. Old Business

- a) Parish Pastoral Council Membership Update – Martha Lopez and Dennis Cote have agreed to join the Pastoral Council, and Julie DeBoer and Adam Zanoni have expressed interest.
- b) Rectory Update
 - i) The extra house furniture will be moved to the garage at the Olde Rectory in Coaldale.
 - ii) The floor has been poured, framing underway, & garage door installed at St. Catherine's rectory.
 - iii) The Knights will inspect the Coaldale house for repairs needed prior to sale, and will also assist with moving furniture to the garage.

7. New Business

- a) Spring Cleaning ideas:
 - Host a spring cleaning event to cleanup outside. Date April 20/2024.
 - Host a similar event in the fall with the focus being cleaning up inside the church.

These events would provide an opportunity to strengthen parish community. Promotion to be done in church bulletin, Knights & CWL to communicate through their mailing lists

b) Funerals

- i) Altar Servers will be provided through the Knights. The office will need to contact Kevin as Grand Knight when there is a need. Need to investigate that there are robes for adult servers.
- c) Knights-led Mass on May 26 - Knights will fill the ministries for the 9am Mass.

d) Parish Renewal Session

i) Fr. Ian, Harley & Greg attended Diocesan update webinar on ?

ii) Parish Renewal Team is in place and met a couple of weeks ago.

Members: John Lohues, Laura Elliot, Helen Layton, Tom Miklos, Harley & Philomena Packer.

Each of the team members will take the lead on one of the 'Five Areas of Parish Life Being Renewed' as described in the 'You Belong' brochure. This brochure creates the road map for the PRT, and will guide the PPC strategic plan. The PRT & PPC needs to work together as we move forward. There should also be cross representation at their respective meetings. DISC profiling, team building & parish survey are to be completed by June.

8. Committee Reports

a) Finance Committee – no report

b) Liturgy Committee – report attached.

i) 17 youth are registered for Sacramental Preparation (1st Communion).

ii) It was suggested that there be a wine and cheese celebration after Easter Vigil in 2026.

c) Knights of Columbus – report attached

d) CWL – report attached.

i) The CWL has 5 new members.

ii) They are discussing the possibility of a garage sale, maybe a joint event (i.e.: mobile shredding, hot dogs & burgers?).

e) St. Joseph School – no report.

f) Hall report – attached.

g) Pastoral Care – no report.

h) Building Maintenance – no report.

i) Parish Renewal webinar – Greg's notes are attached.

9. Closing Prayer - Fr. Ian led the group in prayer.

Next meeting will be April 23, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming meetings are May 28 and June 25.

**St. Ambrose Parish
Parish Pastoral Council Reports
March 2024**

**CWL Report for Parish Pastoral Council
March 2024**

Lenten and Easter greetings to all of the Parish Pastoral Council.

March has proved to be a very busy month for the CWL.

A few of our members attended the World Day of Prayer at the Coaldale Mennonite Church on March 1st.

Six of our members attended the CWL Regional meeting on a snowy Saturday, March 2nd at Assumption Church in Lethbridge. It was great to celebrate mass with Fr. Kevin. We had a presentation and workshop session on social media in the church, following up from a news release from Pope Francis. We skipped along rather smartly through things as the weather turned somewhat nasty later in the morning.

We served at our monthly Friday at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen. We usually get about 6 or our members and some spouses that show up to help prepare and serve lunch on the second Friday of the month.

We had our general meeting on the 13th where we passed our budget, approved our activities calendar for the year, and did our instructed vote for the Diocesan Convention in May and the Provincial Convention in June.

We had a little gift bag for the First Reconciliation students on Sat. March 16th.

We had our executive installation at the 9 am mass on Sun. March 17th as well, we hosted Sunday hospitality after mass that morning.

We handed out popsicle treats to the students and staff at St. Joe's on Tues. March 19th for the feast day of St. Joseph's.

We also had a bunch of people who saw the movie Cabrini on the 19th.

We continue to lead the Rosary on Monday mornings at 10 am.

March proved to be a very busy month. April will be busy as well.

On behalf of the CWL, I wish all of you a very blessed and happy Easter.

Respectfully submitted – Lynne Schaaf CWL President

**Knights of Columbus Council 7082
P.P.C. Report for March 2024**

1. Still looking at ways to re-stain pews
2. Youth masses:
 - a. Served cookies and green juice for youth Mass on Mar. 17 (thanks Gord)

- b. Tentative date for next youth mass – Apr. 28 (sausages??)
3. Looking at new service projects:
 - a. Church clean up / yard work
 - b. Altar serving for funerals
4. April 3 meeting – Social time at St. Joseph School. An evening of fun for Knights and spouses.
5. Membership Drive – Host mass hopefully on May 26 at 9am

Peace and prayers,
Kevin Kinahan,
Grand Knight, Council 7082

Liturgy Committee Report for PPC March 26, 2024

The Liturgy Committee has been hard at work preparing for the Holy season of Easter.

During Lent it has facilitated the Friday Soup and Bun suppers and Stations of the Cross. Angela Lohues, as our secretary (she has taken over from Elizabeth Sutton who did the job for a bajillion years! Thanks Liz!), did a great job of sending out emails to organize people for the food that was needed. Everything went smoothly I believe.

The Triduum is being organized by the committee with people being gathered for foot washing and the Music Ministry people preparing the music needed for four intensive days of celebrations. Volunteers for ushering and decorating are also being organized.

Sacramental Prep under the coordination of Sylvia Zalik has yielded a group of 35 children who had their Sacrament of Reconciliation March 9th. First Holy Communion preparation will be next with classes starting after Easter.

We facilitated a special novena in the parish to St. Joseph for our parish. Special prayer cards were ordered (at no cost to the parish) and handed out to the parishioners and First Reconciliation candidates. We wait to see the answers to our prayers.

Our next thing is the Novena to the Divine Mercy starting on Good Friday and ending with prayers at 2:30 on Divine Mercy Sunday. We will be meeting at the church that Sunday and need to be done before 3:30 for the 4:00 Sunday Mass.

While we are having many blessings and successes, we are still struggling from the after effects of Covid (aren't we all?) and a general lack of attendance. Altar servers, ushers, Children's Liturgy are all in great need of people. As with any organization, the few serve the many and our volunteers are recycled over and over. Still, we trust the Lord to provide and carry on.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Lohues

Hall Committee Report for Parish Pastoral Council
March 26, 2024

The Chosen Season 1 movie night was a success. Averaged 20 people per Sunday. Ran for 4 Sundays February 25, March 3, 10 and 17. There is interest for the second season to be shown. \$1,047.85 profit minus a few expenses.

Tracey Nadeau is the new chair for the Fundraising Committee. She will be looking into grants for the building of the hall.

Carla Palmer is contacting the Diocese to ask for a letter of permission to sell tickets for a fundraiser and to clarify what more information the Diocese requires for the building of the hall.

Joanne Wickenheiser suggested that the church will need to shred paperwork and maybe coordinate this with a fundraiser. Would hire mobile shredder on a Saturday morning (9am-12pm) maybe in June. Could set up in the parking lot and it can be opened to parishioners to have their own personal papers shredded for a donation towards the hall. Also suggested a coffee and snack stand next to the truck. Will decide at the next fundraising meeting.

Also talking about an auction with local farmers donating unwanted and used machinery suggested by George Lohues. Maybe online auction.

Other ideas for fundraising

-Jail and Bail

-Spaghetti supper

-Adirondack chair built by Tom and Joe for a raffle

Respectfully submitted

Denise Roosen

Hall Committee Chair

Parish Renewal Information Session Summary

Parish renewal team's role and responsibilities.

- Bishop emphasizes importance of parish pastoral council and renewal team collaboration in reviewing financial requests and developing a new pastoral renewal plan for each parish.
- Pastoral renewal team is tasked with developing a five-year plan for each parish, collaborating with the diocese, and implementing the renewal timeline, while the parish pastoral council provides support and engagement.
- Bishop encourages parishes to organize renewal gatherings and surveys to educate and involve parishioners in pastoral renewal efforts.
- Bonnie will discuss a formational opportunity for parish renewal teams and councils, including pod pastoral council chairs.

Building vibrant teams in a parish.

- Bonnie expresses excitement about building vibrant teams in the parish, with a focus on collaboration and utilizing individual talents and charisms.
- Howard introduces himself as the person who proposed the idea of team building to the diocese and is volunteering to lead the initiative.

Self-awareness and team building.

- Howard emphasizes importance of self-awareness in team dynamics.
- Howard proposes a half-day session on self-awareness using the Personality Dimensions tool, which assesses an individual's dominant personality color and provides insights on how to respond in different situations.
- Howard references *The Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team* by Patrick Lencioni and other team-building tools to enhance the self-awareness opportunity for the team.

Building strong leadership teams in a southern community.

- Bonnie invites listeners to engage in parish renewal efforts, with Howard as co-chair of the renewal team.

Parish Renewal Gatherings and Resources.

- Bishop clarifies pastor renewal gathering in April, with specific planning expected from parishes.
- Bishop suggests creative ways to gather people for parish renewal, such as after coffee or at existing group meetings.
- Leadership team discusses challenges facing parishes during Holy Week and Easter season, with a focus on choosing a date for a renewal gathering.
- Bishop suggests parishes gather in May or June for renewal planning.
- Investing time in developing a high-functioning parish renewal team will lead to greater benefits in the long run.

Celebrating milestones and one-on-one coaching in a diocese-wide renewal effort.

- Dr. Thomas emphasizes importance of pausing and celebrating progress on journey towards shared vision.
- Dr. Thomas mentions the need for a platform for PRTs to share their successes and best practices, and for the diocese to recognize the work of each team.
- David asks if there is a way for PRTs to have more one-on-one coaching from the diocese or renewal team, with different parishes having different needs.
- Bonnie suggests asking the leadership team for support and accompaniment, emphasizing the importance of reaching out and asking for help.
- The leadership team acknowledges that not everyone is on the same spot and encourages attendees to raise their hands to ask questions or seek support.

Diocese priorities and renewal resources.

- Bishop identifies three areas of pastoral priority: formation, community, and family life.
- The Catholic YYC renewal resources page provides a doorway to many resources, including monthly webinars and recorded summaries of parishes.

Outreach and survey for Catholic parish renewal.

- Parish renewal team seeks to reach out to unchurched Catholics through door-to-door outreach and formation.
- Misha encourages focus on parish profiles, demographics, and sacraments.

Parish Renewal and Leadership Development.

- Bishop and team aim to understand parishioners' faith journeys through survey and local leadership development.
- Parish renewal team to be formed with census data and surveys provided.
- Speaker 1 emphasizes the importance of walking with the Holy Spirit and being patient during the renewal process in the diocese.
- The speaker thanks everyone involved in the renewal effort and invokes God's blessings on the parishes and the diocese.