

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

November 10, 2025 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert, Deacon Ron, Lou Bufano, Joan Bullock, Lisa Codo, Martha Kozub, Mike Morley, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio, Matt Wieser

The feast day of St. Leo the Great occurred on the same day as the council's meeting, and so Fr. Marty appropriately began the evening by reading from a sermon by St. Leo, who is perhaps best-known as the pope who convinced Attila the Hun not to sack Rome. An opening prayer followed.

Bob updated those present on the parish's burgeoning young adult ministry. Increasing the young adult presence in the parish has been a goal of the Education and Formation Commission for many years, and commission liaisons Barb Judge and Jim Lesniak recently met with AnnMarie Hemmerling and her young adult ministry colleagues to begin the process of creating vision and mission statements for the young adult ministry. Bob was present at that meeting and read the newly-created mission statement to the council. The young adult ministry is working on creating goals for the upcoming year, two of which include identifying five leaders by March 1, 2026 and participating in a service project on a quarterly basis. All present were pleased by the progress that has been made thus far and are looking forward to seeing the young adult ministry become an officially recognized ministry in the near future.

Connie confirmed that the parish's next welcoming dinner will be January 16 at the rectory. Invitations will be sent in late November and a bulletin announcement will serve as a reminder as the event nears.

Fr. Marty, Lou and Mike discussed the parish's GIFT campaign. Campaign leaders recently met and determined that the campaign will be relaunched early next year with a special event being held on January 25 in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week. During the event, parishioners will be invited to tour the school to learn more about the school's new HVAC system and the rest of that project which was completed more than \$300,000 under budget. The parish soon will turn its attention to the administration center project, and campaign leaders are brainstorming ways to increase pledges for that portion of the campaign. The campaign will be helped by the recent wine tasting event, and, while it is too early to determine how much money was generated from that event, those who did attend complimented Lisa for the work she did in sewing aprons which were used during the wine tasting.

Commission liaisons who were present at the meeting then provided updates on what has been happening within their commissions. The Parish Life and Education and Formation Commissions will hold their commission meetings within days of this council meeting. The Stewardship Commission plans to do the same, at which time they will receive an update from the Stewardship Committee which was meeting elsewhere in St. Patrick Hall while the council was conducting its meeting. The Spirituality and Worship Commission completed reviewing and updating its charter and plan and plans to resume profiling members of liturgical ministries in the bulletin in the spring. Finally, during a discussion about the Peace and Social Justice Commission, Deacon Ron offered insight on how the Rebuilding Hope ministry differs from the Wheelchair Ramp ministry, and Fr. Marty shared information about how the parish accounts for funds used by different ministries.

Finally, Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert and Bob updated the council on what's been happening with the diocesan planning process. The process is now at a stage where the key leaders of each parish in the South Lake planning group will be recommending which parishes are paired with other parishes and/or assumed by other parishes. Bishop McClory will make the final decision in the coming months. All who have been deeply involved with this process acknowledged that the process has been difficult, but they are hopeful that St. Michael will continue to be a thriving parish which welcomes brothers and sisters in Christ who may need to find a new spiritual home upon completion of the diocesan planning process.

After Fr. Robert led a closing prayer, the council adjourned until its next meeting on December 15 at the rectory. Meetings for the first half of 2026 will take place January 12, February 11, March 4, April 6, May 6 and June 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox