

## St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

January 12, 2026 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Mick Adamson, Lisa Codo, Barbara Judge, Martha Kozub, Jim Lesniak, Mike Morley, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio, Matt Wieser

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from a sermon by St. Gregory of Nazianzus on the Baptism of the Lord, which was commemorated the day before this meeting. An opening prayer followed.

Bob welcomed everyone to the council's first meeting of 2026 and wished everyone a happy new year. He then asked Fr. Marty to update those present on the GIFT campaign, and the pastor of the parish obliged. Fr. Marty said the school HVAC portion of the campaign is complete, and an event on January 25, the first day of Catholic Schools Week, will allow parishioners to tour the newly-upgraded school and see the sophisticated HVAC system in action. Students and staff are appreciating cooler temperatures during warm months and fresher and purer air in the school throughout the year. The January 25 event will also feature food donated by Gamba Ristorante and beer and wine donated by a generous parishioner.

In addition to being a victory lap for the completion of the first portion of the campaign, another purpose of the January 25 event is to do a soft reboot of the campaign which will now shift its focus to the construction of a new parish office building. Fr. Marty suggested referring to the new structure as a parishioner service center because the facility will be where parishioners go to receive a variety of services from their parish. The parish is already one-third of the way to reaching its goal for this portion of the campaign, and attendees on January 25 will have the opportunity to review what they have given and make adjustments to fund the second portion of the campaign if they choose to do so. Fr. Marty and other parish leaders plan to reach out to newly-registered families in the coming weeks to see if they would like to pledge as well. Parish bulletins on January 25 and the Sundays that follow will contain more information about the campaign as well.

In other facilities news, Fr. Marty reported that the convent may welcome additional sisters in the coming months, and so the parish is in the early stages of discussing how best to accommodate additional residents so that each sister has her own bedroom. More details will be forthcoming as they become official.

Bob then asked liaisons for updates regarding their specific commissions. Mick reported that the Stewardship Commission will meet in the coming days. Matt said that he had a long conversation with Sue Cohen from the Good Samaritans ministry as part of his role as liaison to the Peace and Social Justice Commission. Barb said she would check with AnnMarie Hemmerling to see if there are any updates regarding the parish's new Young Adult Ministry. Barb's Education and Formation Commission liaison colleague Jim reported that the parish school would like to promote itself to the families of children who have been baptized within the last 2 years, and Fr. Marty said Deacon Gary may be able to assist with that effort. Jim also said that members of the Baptism Prep ministry are interested in a new presentation to share with families whose children will be receiving the sacrament shortly after they are born. Fr. Marty said that the presentation was created by Fr. Declan McNicholas when he served St. Michael Parish as a deacon. The theology included in it remains accurate but the parish will do its best

to accommodate the Baptism Prep ministry's request if possible. Finally, Bob also discussed changes to Donut Sunday and asked if the ministry hosting Donut Sunday could be recognized in the bulletin.

The Parish Pastoral Council is one of several councils, committees and commissions looking for new members to serve during 2026-2027. The parish will host discernment sessions on March 11 and March 18 for parishioners interested in learning more about how they can better serve their parish. Council members were encouraged to send to Bob the names and contact information of parishioners they think would be good fits to serve in these roles. Those parishioners will receive a personal letter of invitation from Fr. Marty in the coming weeks, and information about discernment sessions will also be announced at Masses in February.

Finally, Fr. Marty and Bob updated those present on the ongoing diocesan planning process. Bob attended a session in December with Bishop McClory and other members of the diocesan planning process. He described it as a positive meeting, and all involved are looking forward to Bishop McClory's decision in the coming months. Fr. Marty described what closing or merging parishes usually entails and how the process COULD go for parishes which will close or merge as a result of the diocesan planning process. Because all parishes in the diocese are expected to be affected in some way by the result of the diocesan planning process, St. Michael's own parish planning process will remain on hold until decisions from the diocesan planning process are announced.

The meeting adjourned after Fr. Marty led those present in the Lord's Prayer. Additional meetings are scheduled for February 11, March 4, April 6 and May 6 at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms of St. Patrick Hall and for June 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox