

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

August 17, 2026 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Deacon Ron, Lisa Codo, Barbara Judge, Linda Kinzer, Theresa Kowalczyk, Jim Lesniak, Alice Lewinski, Mike Morley, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio, Matt Wieser

Fr. Marty opened the first meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council's year by reading from St. Gregory the Great's Moral Reflections on Job—a timely passage in the aftermath of the August 11 storm which affected parishioners and parish grounds alike. An opening prayer followed. Bob extended his greetings to everyone including Martha Kozub, who has generously agreed to rejoin the council on an interim basis while a current council member recuperates from illness.

The parish's Growing Into the Future Together campaign continues to grow, and currently the parish has received approximately \$4,378,000 in pledges, leaving the parish just \$622,000 short of its \$5 million pledge goal. Fr. Marty reported that the parish has secured a \$25,000 grant from the Center for Congregations and is pursuing a similar grant through Lilly Endowment Inc. He and Mike went on to explain a possible timeline for construction of the parishioner service center which would include diocesan approval, 10-12 months of preparation and design work and another 10-12 months of actual construction. Those present were pleased to hear the campaign is progressing nicely and the end goal is in sight.

Bob shared a preliminary report about the parish's festival day on August 8. Parishioners and guests experienced food booths, games and more on a smaller scale than during multi-day festivals of recent years but feedback was still overwhelmingly positive. Bob reported that the 2026 one-day festival brought in 60% of the revenue earned by the multi-day festival in 2025, but expenses for the 2026 one-day festival were only 40% of the expenses incurred by the multi-day festival in 2025. Many attendees appreciated having access to restrooms in the church building, and that decision also saved the parish money since it did not need to acquire temporary bathroom facilities for the festival day. The Festival Committee will meet on August 19 to review this year's event and begin planning for 2027. All present complimented Bob for taking a leadership role in making sure the parish had a successful festival day in 2026 but agreed that someone from outside the Parish Pastoral Council or Finance Council should chair the festival going forward.

Connie then led a discussion about the parish's welcome dinners which have been held at the rectory on a periodic basis since January 2024. The major goals of having welcome dinners were to allow new parishioners to meet clergy and other parishioners in a relaxed setting and to get new parishioners interested in joining parish ministries. Fr. Marty and those present felt those goals have been accomplished, especially since Lisa and Theresa attended welcome dinners shortly after joining the parish and are now serving on the Parish Pastoral Council. Lisa, Theresa and others shared ideas for how to make welcome dinners even more successful, and those present agreed that the parish should continue to have welcome dinners on a periodic basis with the next one scheduled for October 23 at the rectory.

Before then, however, the parish will celebrate the Feast of St. Michael at all Masses on September 26-27. The Parish Pastoral Council has been given the responsibility to coordinate the ministry fair and

many other feast day weekend activities including coffee and donuts on Sunday morning and setting up the traditional feast day dinner with pot luck desserts on Sunday evening. Gib Wieser of the parish's Stewardship Commission has already contacted leaders of parish ministries and asked them to have information and representatives ready to attend the ministry fair. Parish Pastoral Council members are planning to use the official ministry fair preparation book as a guide to help them make this year's feast day weekend the best ever.

Two weeks prior to the feast day events the Parish Pastoral Council will have its annual retreat. On September 11-12 members will discern for chair, vice-chair and liaison responsibilities, review the council's charter document and the parish's vision and mission statements and possibly review the parish's 2025-2026 financial statement if that document is available. The Parish Pastoral Council will resume its usual meeting schedule the following month with a meeting on October 12. Additional meetings for the 2026-2027 year are set for November 9, December 10 (time TBA, rectory), January 12, February 9, March 9, April 15, May 11 and June 18 (time TBA, rectory), all at 7 p.m. in the SE meeting room in St. Patrick's Hall unless otherwise indicated.

The meeting adjourned after Fr. Marty led those present in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox