



## WHAT OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEANS FOR YOU & IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

*Parish Pastoral Council & Commissions: An Introduction.*

Our liturgy and the Holy Eucharist comprise the foundation for parish life. From this foundation, Immaculate Conception offers many ways to live the Gospel, and lead people to Jesus sharing the love and mercy of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The faith-driven ministries, programs and annual events we offer are fostered through our Parish Pastoral Council and its three core commissions.

**All parishioners are welcome. We invite you to take part.**

### **Our Council Commissions include Faith Formation & Spirituality, Social Concerns, and Parish & Community Life.**

The IC Parish Pastoral Council is comprised of 9 representatives; three members elected from each of the three commissions who facilitate their respective programs and ministries. Within these commissions, there are many opportunities for parishioners to be involved and contribute to the life of Immaculate Conception Church.

#### **Our 'Faith Formation & Spirituality' commission inspires our relationship with Christ:**

through our PSR (Parish School of Religion), ministries such as Adult Bible Study, Men's Fellowship, TMIY (That Man is You), OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults), Vacation Bible School (VBS), our Liturgical Ministries, and faith empowering events such as Parish Mission and special retreats.

#### **Our 'Social Concerns' commission serves community outreach:**

through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Homeless Shelter Ministry, YWCA Family Shelter and B.R.E.A.D. (Building Respect, Equality and Dignity).

#### **And our 'Parish & Community Life' commission fosters our Christ centered life together:**

through The Knights of Columbus, IC Women's Club, Hospitality Ministry, Lenten Fish Dinners, Parish Nurses, and annual events such as Parish Festival and the Parish Ministry Fair.

### **Our week begins with Mass and the Holy Eucharist. Then 'together' our Faith goes to work in many ways.**

Come join our commission meetings. They take place the second Wednesday of most months (except July & August) from 6:30-7:30pm.

They are followed by the pastoral council members meeting at 7:30pm. Consider how the Holy Spirit is calling you to enrich our parish life at Immaculate Conception Church.

**FOR QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION CONTACT [DANCCOLS@AOL.COM](mailto:DANCCOLS@AOL.COM)**



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS

IC developed a parish pastoral council that works to represent all of the commissions, ministries and parishioners.

The council was formed in 2016 and council members work hard to consider what is best for the parish and have faith that God will guide them.

This information is intended to shed light on the Parish Pastoral Council, the Commissions, and how you can become involved. We appreciate your interest, support, and ideas.

## What is the pastoral parish council?

- A group of leaders who assist the Pastor in fulfilling the mission of the church: Leading people to Jesus through worship, community, service, and devotion to Mary.
- Members investigate and discuss matters that concern the parish.
- The council provides recommendations to the Pastor.

## What the council is not.

- Council does not advise on matters of faith, morals and laws of the Universal Church.

## What is a Commission?

Commissions discuss ideas before they are presented to Council and are comprised of Council members, ministry leaders and engaged parishioners. Commissions are organized around needs of the parish:

1. Faith Formation & Spirituality
2. Social Concerns
3. Parish & Community Life

## Who can approach the Commissions with an idea?

- Anyone. All parishioners are encouraged to communicate suggestions and ideas.

## WHICH QUESTIONS MIGHT YOU ASK TO CONSIDER ATTENDING, AND TO LEARN MORE?

### Can I attend an upcoming meeting just to meet people and learn what's taking place?

Yes. You will be most welcome. In fact, having parishioners like you in attendance is the best way to build awareness for all the activities and programs available in our parish community, as well as the challenges we face, and new initiatives we hope to accomplish.

### Must I be a member of a parish ministry to attend and participate at a commission meeting?

No. While all parish ministries and programs are represented through one of our three commissions, any parishioner with a particular interest or passion is welcome to attend and participate at the commission meeting of their choice. You can contribute your thoughts in discussion, discover your way to take part, and share the news to support awareness and success.

### Can I offer suggestions or submit a proposal for a new initiative or ministry program?

Ultimately, the reason for having our parish pastoral council is to afford parishioners a way to contribute faith-driven inspirations to our parish life and mission. The Holy Spirit may choose any one of us to bear new fruit, so yes. Our council and commissions are here to provide the process to introduce, discuss and develop a proposal that can bring your idea to life.

## How can I get involved with one of the Commission groups?

Commissions and Council meet on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no meetings in July and August.

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Commissions meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Council then meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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Parishioner, please consider sharing your ideas and talents by attending a Commission meeting.

**Join us to bring new insights to one of our commissions at Immaculate Conception Parish!**

FOR QUESTIONS, SPECIFIC MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND CONTACT INFORMATION, AND TO LEARN HOW TO ATTEND UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETINGS, WRITE BY EMAIL TO [DANCCOLS@AOL.COM](mailto:DANCCOLS@AOL.COM).