



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Leading People to Jesus Through Worship, Community, Service and Devotion to Mary

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

March 18, 2026 in Rectory Meeting Room A

Rich Viertel called the meeting to order at 7:45pm. Jaclyn Curtis led the opening prayer.

Attendees: Council President Rich Viertel, Fr. Matthew Hoover, Principal Colleen Kent, Jaclyn Curtis, Jack Griffin, Matt Hummer, David Lyons, Julie Clemens, Kendra Girardot, Paula Mong, Robert Bevilacqua.

Not present: Max Herath, Janet Wilks, Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell

Pastor's Topics

- **Pastoral Transition:** Based on the impending pastoral change, the parish council has been tasked with preparing a smooth process to support the new pastor Father Seth Keller when he arrives.
- **Youth Ministry (High School):** The leaders of the High School Hangout will be stepping away after this year. The final event is happening on May 17, 2026. There has been a low turnout at these meetings (less than 10). It has been hard to maintain a program over the years as students have too many options for their time.
 - The council will need to consider whether we continue to provide a youth ministry in the fall. If so, what form will it take?
 - It is important that parishes provide safe space for catholic youth. This has been a space where difficult topics for high school youth can be discussed.

Announcements – Council President Rich Viertel

- **Pastoral Transition Preparation:** The following was discussed.
 - The parish council is to read the book “Navigating Pastoral Transitions” prior to the next meeting. The book lists strategies for effective transitions and indicates milestones (p.39) that should be utilized throughout the process. The council will use this as a guide to determine steps moving forward.
 - The parish council along with members of the Faith Formation and Spiritual Life Commission should consider ways to help parishioners prepare spiritually as they navigate through the transition. This could include providing prayers for meetings and possibly before masses. There are currently prayers available. Prayer cards can also be provided. Father Matt said there could be a personalized prayer recited at the beginning of daily masses. He will provide guidance for selection of the prayer. Father Matt will provide guidance for selection of the prayer.
 - Fr. Keller may not have been previously at a parish with a parish council. He is stepping into a big position. We will need to help him understand our parish and provide any support he needs. Let him know that we are here and that he can ask questions.

- Each ministry will be asked to provide a summary description of their group and what it does. This information will be provided to Fr. Keller when he arrives on campus.
- The pastoral transition is scheduled for July 14. The date was set to work with Fr. Keller's graduation from his studies in Rome. Because of that, we are working with somewhat of a luxury as we have several months to prepare for this transition. Often the transitions occur very quickly with only a week or two between transitions.
- Seton parish has already posted Fr. Matt's photo on their website. Father shared a letter from Fr. Keller that will be in this week's bulletin and on the website.
- Due to the impending transition, it was suggested that we continue to meet in June and July for continuity. The council will determine the schedule in May.
- **Parish Council Tenure:** The current chart was provided for review.
 - The standard member's term on council is 3 years. There are several people on council that have exceeded three years. Julie Clemens will be the next council president, and she will be in place when Fr. Keller arrives this summer. Julie asked council to consider scheduling Parish Council meetings for June and July in case it turns out additional coordination is needed to help with the pastoral transition. These months are usually a summer break for council. Rich asked members to consider it and asked that a vote be taken at the May meeting.
- **DMI Survey Results:** Results should be available in late March.
 - There will be a Diocesan review first. They will review the results for Diocesan-wide impact. Results, including parish-specific information, will be sent to Father Matt and he will distribute to the council for review. Tom Berryhill will be able to pull information from the survey results as needed.

New Business

- **Fish Fry Status:** The power outage last Friday caused the cancellation of the fish fry. There will be a fish fry next week.
- **How do we support our ministries?** As the latest BREAD event had a very small turnout, the council should review how to better support our ministries. One suggestion is to reach out to groups such as Exalt to see if groups can support each other without changing their missions.

Commissions Meeting Notes

- **Exalt Presentation:** Roger Dickerson and Nick Jung presented the young adult program to the Commissions. This is a ministry of the IC parish but is open to all in the targeted age group of 18-35.
- **Faith Formation and Spiritual Life:** Men's and Women's Conferences were well attended by the IC parishioners.
- **Social Concerns:** Protect Living Wage, Stopping Predatory Landlords, and Protect Trees presentations were discussed.
- **Parish and Community Life:**
 - **Garden Ministry:** Initial meeting was held.
 - **IC Parish Clean-Up Day** is March 28th.
 - **Festival Committees:** Initial meeting was held. They are still looking for volunteers.

Closing and Next Meeting

Rich closed the meeting at 8:45pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on April 8, 2026.

Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Robert Bevilacqua, Parish Council Secretary.