



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

April 8, 2026 in Marian Hall

Rich Viertel called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Peter McCann led the opening prayer.

Attendees: Council President Rich Viertel, Fr. Matthew Hoover, Principal Colleen Kent, Jack Griffin, Matt Hummer, David Lyons, Julie Clemens, Kendra Girardot, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, Robert Bevilacqua, Peter McCann (guest).

Not present: Jaelyn Curtis, Max Herath, Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell.

Presentation

• Parish Youth Group

- Peter McCann discussed the status and future of the IC Parish youth group “High School Hangout”. This program meets every Sunday from 6:30pm-8:30pm. The current adult ministers for the group are Heather Mackinnon, Peter McCann and Veronica Dannemiller. Heather will be leaving the program as she has moved out of the parish. Peter and Veronica plan to continue their work with the program. This program is all volunteer driven, and other programs have the benefit of a full-time youth minister on staff.
- This program offers the opportunity to discuss difficult topics challenging today’s youth. There is discourse in catechism and worldly topics. Other programs such as “The Vine” at St. Brendan’s are available, but those programs are different. Students have reacted positively to the “Hangout”. They enjoy the program, have grown in their faith, and look forward to the meetings.
- Topics and activities have included discussions about family, dating, and other hard questions. Deacon Campbell has been there to answer hard questions. Father Matt has been a part of the program and said Mass at an event that was very well received by the students.
- This is the third year for the program. The first year was the most successful with a lot of seniors in the program. It takes a lot of work to keep this going. They are hoping to grow the program attendance. This is open to students throughout the diocese. The parish council offered any help to the program that they can provide.

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. Rich Viertel reiterated that the council needs to review the book “Navigating Pastoral Transitions” that was distributed last month and focus on the personal reflection questions on page 30.
- There will be a mass on June 28, 2026, at 3:00pm followed by a celebration for Father Matt. There will be a celebration for Fr. Keller in August. This will allow him time to settle into his new routine at the parish.
- Next month’s meeting will be more in depth regarding the planning for the transition.

Announcements – Council President Rich Viertel

- **Campus Maintenance Project Summary:** Rich Viertel reviewed the summary that was provided in the bulletin. It was noted that a lot of great work has been completed with the guidance of Father Matt. We need to keep that momentum moving forward.
- **Parish Directory:** We now have 225 families out of 400+/- families that will have photos in the directory.
- **Parish Council Tenure:** The current chart provided has been updated with a few minor changes. Robert Bevilacqua will become a full member of the Council and remain acting as secretary. Max Herath will be resigning from the council as he has moved and is now relocated to St. Brendan.
- **2026-27 Parish Vice-President candidacy:** Nothing to report.
- **DMI Survey Results:** We are still awaiting the final results.

New Business

- **Ministry Summaries:** It was noted that all ministries will be asked to provide a small write-up to summarize their ministry and what they do. These will be given to Father Keller upon his arrival. Communications about this will follow. The goal is to have all write-ups returned by the end of June.

Commissions Meeting Notes

- **Faith Formation and Spiritual Life:**
 - OCIA Programs: There has been growth this year for new Catholics entering the faith. IC has 13 new candidates and St. Mary's in German Village had 48 this year. This is a big increase over previous years.
- **Social Concerns:**
 - BREAD will have an Nehemiah Action Event on May 12th at the Celeste Center. This is a large meeting, and IC plans to maintain a good presence. Also discussed were topics of Protect Living Wage, Stopping Predatory Landlords, and Protect Trees.
- **Parish and Community Life:**
 - **Funeral Ministry:** 3 upcoming funerals this week.
 - **Garden Ministry:** Completed work on March 28th, prior to Easter weekend. Need to do more work when the mulch is available.
 - **Festival Committee:** Support is still needed: The Drink stand needs volunteers to manage and run it. Colleen Kent will investigate whether school classes can man the booth and use that as service hours. Parents are required to do service hours, and it may be a great option for some parents to do that work early before school starts. Parents will need to be at the stand at all times to manage, supervise, and to collect money / tickets.

Closing and Next Meeting

Rich closed the meeting at 8:15pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on May 13, 2026.

Meeting notes submitted by Robert Bevilacqua, Parish Council Secretary.