

St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022

Attendees: Fr. Andrew, Sarah Pereira, Erin Krysko, Chris Moraes, Cheryll Nandee, Florian Bernardo, Alisa McLin, Grant Gay, Greg Verhappen, Bob Young, Edith Tyndall, David Nolke

Regrets: Bill Werbowski

Chris M. called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Fr. Andrew and Chris M. informed us that Santos C. has stepped down from Parish Pastoral Council due to his growing personal commitments. They thanked him for his dedication and support.

Erin K. read the Land acknowledgement.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Florian B. opened the meeting with the Gospel reading, reflection and prayer.

Approval of minutes from January 2022

No changes were made to the January minutes and a motion was made to approve them. Moved by: Erin K.
Seconded: Alisa M. Carried.

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

Lenten Season events

Lenten Season starts on March 2 with Ash Wednesday. There will be 3 masses, at 9 am, 5 pm and 7 pm with the distribution of ashes. Last year we were limited to 150 in attendance. This year we might not have a capacity limit.

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays after the 6:30 pm mass. This will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in-person.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available on Friday mornings 9:30 am – 10:30 am and Wednesday evenings 7 – 8 pm. During the Adoration on Wednesday evenings, we will recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet and have a short reflection on Divine Mercy.

There will be prayers before morning mass on Tuesdays to Fridays. The Liturgy of the Hours starts at 8:30 am followed up the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

The date for the Come As You Are event is to be determined. The Ministry has started a monthly connect on the fourth Thursday of every month. They will be offering the Faith Studies via Zoom, or in-person on Thursday or Saturdays.

Sponsoring a Refugee Family

The family has started their immigration paperwork which should take about 1 – 1.5 year to process. We need to start preparing to raise funds. Fr. Andrew would like a start a Fundraising Committee with one representative from each of the PPC and Finance Councils as liaisons to the committee.

Action: Contact Fr. Andrew if you are interested in joining this Committee.

Parking Lot / Security

We hired Paladin that monitors the parking lot and premises three times every night. Trackers will be installed to confirm their visits.

Two weeks ago the windows of the church basement that opens to the St. Albert the Great Room and Kitchen were broken into. We did not receive a report from Paladin and the alarm system did not report anything either. We will be checking the equipment to see if they need to be updated or whether they have issues. For example, one of the motion detectors were installed but not connected. We need to assess whether to continue with the existing contract or change to a different provider. Other than the window breakage, there was no major damage or loss. It will cost around \$500 for the window repair plus labor which would be about \$1200 in total.

Finance Council report – David N.

We met with the Program Admin for Paladin. Trackers were installed on each corner of the church to monitor the visits. He also indicated that the patrols would be staggered and done a little later between midnight and 4 am.

The Issue with the alarm system needs to be investigated. We may need to replace the equipment.

David N. attended the first Synod meeting. The personal comments discussed in the breakout sessions are confidential and cannot be shared.

January financial statements indicate that the parish made a \$14K profit. We had to increase the amount to the Bishop's office and loan payment so there will be a reduction in profit going forward.

The financial presentation to parishioners will be done in March.

We reviewed the Capital Budget for any items that were not previously addressed. The review was done by SNC Lavalin in 2017-2018. We fixed some big items at the time, but then we had to stop because of the pandemic. We need to address the potential flooding issue of the basement. The pricing is approximately \$50K which includes re-grading the land. Insurance will not cover the damages if there is another flooding.

Fr. Andrew decided to not spend \$5K in purchasing envelopes this year. There are still blank envelopes that parishioners can use. We have had good results in moving to online donations.

We have approved the expense of a thank you lunch for the volunteers at the Parish Office.

Old business

Update on masses and volunteers – Alisa M.

The average mass attendance for the last few weeks is shown below:

Saturday 5 pm	233
Sunday 9 am	220
Sunday 11 am	339
Sunday 5 pm	232

Weekend mass numbers have increased by 14%.

The Alberta Government announced restrictions were being lifted but it is not clear how this impacts places of worship. The Diocese has recommended that we keep things the same as last weekend. A new memorandum was announced shortly before this meeting.

- No restrictions on limit.
- Masks are required till February 28.
- Physical distancing between households is encouraged.
- Congregational singing is not permitted at this time.

Over the next two weekends we will open up all the pews in the nave and transept. We will not lock the doors. The distribution of communion will be done from the sides this weekend. Mass will continue to be livestreamed. The dispensation from attending mass will remain in place.

We are in the process of restructuring the mass ministries. We have a meeting this week with the mass ministry leaders. We hope to roll out the new system before Palm Sunday. We would like to have a major recruitment of new volunteers, but would like the structure in place so that the ministry leaders can build up their own teams and do their own scheduling.

Cheryll N. has proposed the organization of a Time and Talent (Stewardship) Ministry Fair. It is an opportunity to generate awareness, fellowship, involvement and enthusiasm among parishioners, enhancing parish ministry. It encourages all parishioners to recognize with pride the value provided by its members through its volunteer efforts, sharing of gifts, expertise, time, and talent. It serves as a conduit to lead people to a closer relationship with God and each other. This is made possible by having representatives from all ministries available after all Masses on the designated stewardship weekend. She would welcome the authorization to start planning this for the Fall 2022. She has also requested a budget investment of \$3K for materials that are essential for welcoming volunteers and for a hospitality event.

Action: Sarah P. to share the proposal from Cheryll N.

Update on Synod on Synodality – Chris M.

A couple of the PPC members attended the first session led by the Diocese. Further outreach is required at the parish level. We will need individuals to facilitate these sessions at the parish-level.

There are two orientation sessions on February 17 and 23 evening for the Parish Synod Leadership Team. Our Parish Team has not been established. In the future there will be training sessions for leading the discussion in the breakout sessions. The feedback from these discussions is documented and sent to the Holy See.

Action: Email Fr. Andrew or Chris M. if you would like to attend orientation sessions.

Update on parish website & bulletin – Fr. Andrew

The new parish website is almost ready for launch. The URL will remain the same but be redirected to a new page.

We will use Flocknote for our parish bulletin instead of the pdf version. It is an online tool with a more appealing appearance. We hope to start using this tool from the First Sunday of Lent.

New Business

Anniversary celebrations – Chris M.

Significant anniversary celebrations 30 & 40 years for Fr. Andrew and Fr. Chris. The Bishop will come on May 8 to celebrate mass and their anniversaries. We will have a short meeting to discuss logistical ideas.

Other

The Bishop will be coming to celebrate Confirmation masses at our parish on May 1 and May 8 at 2 pm.

Adjournment

The next PPC meeting is on March 15 and Grant G. will lead us in the opening prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. Fr. Andrew closed the meeting in prayer.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)