

St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021

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

Regrets: Bill Werbowski, Sherry Samborski

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

Erin K. read the Land acknowledgement.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Grant G. opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of minutes from October 2021

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

Pastor's report – Fr. Andrew

We have received the Memorandum from the Diocese for Advent and Christmas with no major changes to current pandemic-related restrictions.

'The Journey Club', part of the Westman Village (Seniors' residences) in Mahogany has requested a regular visit to administer mass to the residents. We might start celebrating mass there monthly beginning in January. In addition, we will continue visiting the two other senior facilities in McKenzie Towne and Extended Care.

Finance Council report – David N.

The Finance Council recently had extraordinary meetings for 2022 budget planning and preparation of the presentation. The last meeting was a brief review of the Financial Statements. No new items were addressed.

Old business

Update on masses and volunteers – Alisa M.

The restrictions from September 16 continue to remain in effect. Here are the summarized three items:

- Mandatory masking
- Capacity limit to one-third of fire code
- Physical distancing is required

Since our last PPC meeting we have implemented the following changes:

- Optional weekend mass registration and church doors are locked 5 minutes before mass starts
There has been an increase in weekend mass attendance and many attendees arrive late creating a last-minute rush. This gives the volunteers the opportunity to be seated when mass begins and allows them to fully celebrate mass. This will also help us prepare for the Advent and Christmas season.

Registration opens on the Mondays prior to the weekend. Registration is encouraged and it guarantees a seat up to 15 minutes before mass. Those not registered are considered “walk-ins” and are accepted until capacity is reached or 5 minutes prior to mass when church doors are locked. 50 spots are reserved for volunteer families. The registration is not for contact tracing, but just for managing capacity. This optional mass registration was communicated to parishioners through flyers, notices on the church doors, the parish bulletin and social media accounts.

The number of attendees pre-registering for mass has increased from 395 to 526. The percentage of spots filled has increased from 33% to 44%.

- Volunteer changes to duties
One Point of Entry keeps track of the number of attendees, while another Point of Entry volunteer asks for families to enter together. After being counted, if a person has pre-registered, they go to the registration table, otherwise prepare for seating.
- Increased the number of volunteers. We are continuing to signup new volunteers each week. We thank the volunteers for their continued dedication and devotion to our parish.
- Side door/steps are closed for 11 am mass
- Pews are marked every 2 ft to help aide the ushers with seating. We must leave 3 spots between families.

On the October 23-24 weekend the Reconciliation candidates were welcomed. All masses were at maximum capacity.

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

Saturday 5 pm	266
Sunday 9 am	268
Sunday 11 am	335
Sunday 5 pm	265

Mass was celebrated on Monday, November 1 for All Saints’ Day. 76 attended the 9 am and 162 were at the 6:30 pm mass, On All Souls’ Day, there are 63 and 137 in attendance at the 9 am and 6:30 pm masses respectively. On the Feast of St. Albert the Great 53 and 29 people attended the 9 am and 6:30 pm masses respectively.

There is a meeting on November 17 to start planning for the Christmas and Advent season.

Advent Events

Setting Captives Free: An Advent Mission Of Hope

Over the four Tuesday evenings of Advent, from 7:15 PM-8:15 PM, our parish will host a weekly mission where we will learn about tools and how to discern the voice of God from the voice of the enemy - all in the tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola’s Discernment of Spirits.

Journey through Advent reflecting on Hope, Peace & Joy

Fr. Andrew will offer Advent Reflection on Thursday evenings December 2, 9 and 16. The reflection starts after the evening Mass at 7:00 pm in the church.

The Promise, an Advent experience – December 17

On Friday, December 17 at 7 pm Access52 will present “The Promise, an Advent experience”

Advent Children’s Faith Formation videos – Greg V.

We are preparing short five-episode “Kids can Advent, too” videos to share online. Greg V. and Carol T. host the video with an introduction, telling a story featuring artwork by children followed by Q&A videos of children similar to the ‘Kids say the darndest things’. To avoid copyright issues, we wrote the story ourselves. The artwork will be provided by children from our parish or schools. The videos will be of children from our parish. We will obtain permission from parents by collecting photography/video release consent forms/FOIP forms. The five stories are (1) Raggamuffin, the unlikely saint; (2) St. Nicholas; (3) St. John the Baptist (4) The Nativity story (5) Christmas story. This will be a fun way to engage children and the schools. We are actively looking for children (between ages 3-8) who are interested in participating in the videos.

New PPC members – All

We are looking for additional PPC members. The best way to engage people is through a personal invitation.

Action for all: Let Fr. Andrew know if you know of someone who understands our purpose and would be a good fit in our Parish Council.

Website update

Gerry is learning how to maintain the new website. Feedback was provided by the staff and changes were incorporated. The next step is to update the different ministry pages.

New Business

Synod of Synodality – Fr. Andrew

What is a Synod? It is a venerable word in the tradition of the Church which indicates the path along which the people of God work together. The opening mass was on October 31. More information can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://www.catholicyc.ca/synod.html>

Website update for PPC – Sarah P

Sarah P. is contacting ministries to review and update (if necessary) the content on their current pages.

The Finance and Parish Council are different from other ministries. Their respective pages could include description of the council, their mandate, frequency of meetings with reports (e.g. meeting minutes)

The Parish Council has a page which currently just has links to the previous meeting minutes. We could also include names/pictures of Parish Council members and contacts for different ministries.

Action: David N. to submit to Fr. Andrew high level overview for Finance Council.

Action: Erin K. / Chris M. to draft update for the PPC webpage.

Other items

Adoration on Sunday

There was a request to have adoration on Sunday. This was discussed, but decided that, at St. Albert the Great parish, we will leave Sunday for mass and not adoration. Anyone interested can be re-directed to other parishes in the Diocese that offer Adoration on Sundays.

Permanent Deacon Candidates instituted in the ministry of Lector

Please keep in your prayers, the Permanent Diaconate Formation as they were instituted in the ministry of Lector on Sunday, November 14 by Bishop William T. McGrattan at St. Mary's Cathedral. Ferdie Gayos and Rey Tadifa are Permanent Deaconate candidates from St. Albert the Great Parish.

Adjournment

The next PPC meeting is on December 21 and Greg V. will lead us in the opening prayer. Erin K. to take minutes in Sarah P.'s absence.

Fr. Andrew closed the meeting with the prayer of Synodality. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)