ACC Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026 3:00 pm Large Meeting Room at Holy Family

In attendance: Fr. Joe, Marueen Watt, Melissa Reynolds, Lenore Manning, Erin Hessler, Michael Piper, Rick Valentina, Karala Valentina

Absent: Brandy Bussard, Bob Wallis

Fr. Joe will be meeting with the Finance council the coming Friday at 5:30. He is working to update the membership and getting new representatives so that we have a couple of members on the Pastoral Council that also serve on the Finance Council to facilitate the sharing of information.

Food Bank Program/Project Update – Building mover is willing to do work but it will cost a little more. Engineers are doing site survey to find utilities and best location for building.

St. Peter Mural Update : The artist has purchased his canvas and painting materials but has been busy welcoming a new baby into the world so hasn't made any significant progress yet.

Pews and Kneelers for Holy Family Update – Sauder Furniture and Montana Correction Enterprises are both working on bids. Expected cost is around $200k + Pews | Church Pews | Worship Pew | Sauder Worship Seating to see options. We will need a small group in the future to choose colors and materials and get feedback from parishioners as we move forward. Once we have all the options figured out and have firm prices, we can review the bids and make a final decision.

Fr. Joe has a job description for a Music Director and will be working to get some Ads placed to see what kind of interest ther may be. These are hard positions to fill to find someone with the necessary skills and availability to work the weekend hours. So we will need to be patient and do the best we can in the meantime.

The group discuss the need for having a Youth & Young Adult Minister to take charge of leading activities for our Youth and Young adults going forward. We have a great facility the we should be able to use better to serve the youth and young adults of our community. Teaching activities, bible studies, dances, socials, game nights, dinners, and what ever activities that can be envisioned to allow people to gather in a healthy and safe environment. They will likely need to be a full-time posting in order to attract a qualified individual and could involve getting creative in terms of job responsibilities depending on the capabilities of the individual. Fr. Joe will be pulling together a Job Description and looking at salary requirements so that we see if we can work it into our 2026-27 budget plans.

The need for follow-on education for Catechumens to keep advancing the knowledge of their faith was discussed. Fr. Joe will work with Fr. Dillon to see if we can come up with a monthly session to discuss church or bible topics that will help fill in the gaps of people's knowledge about their faith. This could include online video access to make it available to people in both Deer Lodge and Anaconda. More to come.

Members were wondering who all the new Catechumens and those being baptized were. We need to do something to get their names and pictures published so they can be more formally introduced to our community.

Lector Training: Fr. Joe has asked Deanna to order some Lector books to help with their preparation for reading scripture on weekends.

Altar Servers: Fr. Joe did a quick training session with 6 youth on a Wednesday evening and asked if they would be able to show up before Easter services, but none did.

Fr. Joe had a Eucharistic Minister come up to Communion seeking another Presious Body when there was already one in the pyx. The Eucharist is always to be distributed as soon as possible after it is picked up at Mass. It shouldn't be let sitting around at home or in someone's pocket for an extended length of time and should never be kept overnight at a person's home. It needs to be returned to the church tabernacle or consumed. Fr. Joe will be publishing training instructions that Eucharist Ministers will need to read and comply with if they wish to continue providing those services.

We briefly discussed the pertinent information that needs to be published in the bulletin. Fr. Joe mentioned that he sees a lot of bulletins not being picked up and taken home. Mass Intentions, Mass schedules and Lector & Eucharistic Ministry assignments and special event notification seem to be some of the key things that people review each week. A master monthly calendar of all parish events that can be posted at home would also be nice. The value of the other articles and all the advertisements is being questioned. Fr. Joe would like a much more succinct and focused bulleting without a lot of extra filler. Based on the number that are being taken home, we could easily print them locally now in full color and make changes up to just before Masses on weekends, making for a much more timely product.

Erin & Melissa will be making plans for a family event on Wednesday, April 29th at 6:00 pm. Ideas include: board games, Pizza, jigsaw puzzle competition, root beer floats, …. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Fr. Joe would like us to review our "branding" strategy and look at what logos we use and on the things that we print or put out. We have the opportunity to create custom end pieces for future pews that could reflect the identity. Some sort of logo should be on all publications or things we put out to create an awareness of our community in the community at large.

Handicap access discussion: Fr. Joe still wants us to look into doing something about the handicap access at St. Peter and Holy Family. This past weekend he saw a couple of families struggling to mange getting out of St. Pete because of the steps and doors pressing in on them. There has to be something better that we can come up to make our facilities more readily accessible to those that struggle.

Next Meeting: 3:00 PM 1st Tuesday of May, 05/05/26 ???