

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 10, 2026 @ 7:00 PM**

In attendance: *Ex officio* Fr. Vargas, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council)
Fr. Obinyan, M. Nasse (Chair), M. Tapuska (Secretary), B. d’Souza, M. Fitzsimmons, K. Gibson, D. Helton, S. Kelly, K. McKinnon, G. Puhl, O. Uwagboe

Regrets: C. du Toit

Conversation in the Spirit

Call to Order and Welcome Fr. Obinyan

Items from January Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes

Moved that the minutes of the January 27, 2026, meeting of PC be approved. **Seconded.** The motion was **approved.**

2. Financial Update – M. McGee (Report presented based on notes in italics)

It is noted that February revenues were \$136k, an increase of \$14k over January and with YTD revenues of \$259k, \$55k below budget but still \$29k ahead of 2025 YTD results. February net income was \$58k, with YTD net income of \$71k, \$27k below budget but roughly equivalent to YTD 2025 results. Total Other Income (Building Fund, PAP, MTH Campaign) was \$75k, \$9k ahead of budget, with MTH collections representing \$55k of the total.

Total expenses YTD at \$243k are \$40k below budget, with Salaries & Benefits-\$17k, Maintenance-\$20k, Admin & Office \$9k below budget, and Programs-\$6.5k higher than budget.

Working capital remains a healthy \$1.24M with total cash & equivalents of \$620k, and with \$304k in Central Fund Savings. We continue to pay down our Central Fund Loan with total liabilities of \$3.48M and total equity of \$20.15M.

I am pleased to report the Diocese has calculated the amount available for matching under the MTH campaign to be applied against the Central Loan fund as \$301k, \$59% of our 2027 calendar Y/E goal, calculated as follows:

Operational profit	151,270.72
Additional loan payments	21,380.74
9000 Parish Collected for MTH	129,176.89
Total eligible for matching	301,828.35
Multiply the Hope Goal	510,569.00

Based on YTD profit ahead of budget by \$71k and our cash and cash equivalents of \$620k, which would remain adequate even when reduced to \$319k post payment, Fr. Edmund and I are recommending the Diocese apply the full qualifying amount to reduce the Central Loan Fund.

3. Parish Renewal Update

The PRT continues to meet monthly on Saturday mornings. At our last meeting on February 21, we reviewed and discussed our Parish Renewal Progress Report (“Report”) which is due to be submitted to the Diocese by April. In the Report, each action item is marked as Delayed, Underway, or Completed. We have marked many of the action items as underway because we will be hosting Stewardship Sundays on September 12 & 19 and anticipate a positive parishioner response. The following summary is taken from the Report.

Renewal at SMCC is moving forward. Developments since September 2025:

- 1. Our Pastor, Fr. Edmund Vargas, invited two members of the Parish Renewal Team (“Team”) to join Parish Pastoral Council (“Council”), which increased the Team’s presence to 3 of 12 individuals on Council. Additionally, the Chair of Council has joined the Team. These two steps have increased mutual and reciprocal awareness of the Team and Council and will foster a gradual integration of the activities of both. Of note, the Finance Committee is represented on Council and is supportive of the Action Items noted in the Parish Renewal Plan (“Plan”), in particular the hiring of a Youth Coordinator and a Communications Coordinator.**
- 2. Since the launch of the Plan in early October 2025, the Team has been meeting monthly. We encountered a small delay in the fall due to travel and other commitments of Team members; however, the Team had success in hosting the Diocesan Advent Retreat and an additional morning of prayer and reflection, complete with a viewing of “Holy Night” (from the creators of The Chosen). This initiative was to offer parishioners a unique time of preparation for Advent and to allow the team to gauge interest of parishioners in programs such as Alpha.**
- 3. The Team members who led the 5 ministry groups (Word, Worship, Community, Service, and Leadership) at the Renewal Planning Session on March 29, 2025, emailed the coordinators of their respective groups to invite them to the Bishop’s 2026 Lenten Gatherings. The purpose of this was to keep lines of communication open, and to foster a sense of community and belonging at SMCC.**
- 4. There is an initiative underway to support youth from SMCC to attend World Youth Day in Seoul in August 2027. It is hoped that this group could join the group of 60 from the Diocese that will be attending.**

5. **Although WORD Action Item 1 to hire a Youth Coordinator has been delayed, note that there are active youth programs at SMCC, including the Altar Server Ministry, Elevation Youth Group for students in grades 4-6, and Saturday Night Lights for students in grades 7-12, hosted by Access 52.**
6. **The primary focus of the Team's monthly meetings has been to review the Plan and to discern which of the action items should be acted upon first. The fruit of our discussions is that 2 consecutive Stewardship Weekends have been planned for September 12/13 & 19/20, 2026. We will highlight the priority action items and seek volunteers for the ministries we hope to form. Discussions continue as to the appropriate methodology, but a checklist and ministry booths have been proposed. To bolster this effort, a Volunteer Guidelines booklet is being finalized which will highlight existing and proposed ministries. This booklet will also complete Service Action Item 2.**
7. **Finally, the second annual Ministry Coordinators' Mass, meet & greet, and workshop is planned for September 26, 2026.**

Please note that a Diocesan Renewal Conference will be held at SMCC on Friday evening, April 17 and Saturday, April 18. Registration is now open at <https://calgarydiocese.flocknote.com/signup/246393>

The Bishop is hosting a dinner for the chairs of the "early-uptake" Parish Renewal Teams on April 29. Fr. Vargas and the Chair of SMCC PRT have been invited and will be attending.

4. Parish Pictorial Update

The dates for the pictures for the Pictorial Directory have been confirmed:

April 21 – May 16, **Tuesdays through Fridays** from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, except May 12 – 14, on those dates, times will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and **Saturdays** 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Times have been blocked off for ministry photographs, Wednesday evenings April 22, 29 and May 6, and Saturday morning, May 2. First preference on these times will be given to staff members' ministries, such as the music ministry and RCIA. Ministry coordinators will be contacted by email early next week, once staff members have selected their times. Given the number of ministries, and number of volunteers involved, dates and times will be assigned, alphabetically and by ministry group. It is hoped that as many ministry volunteers as possible will be able to show up at their assigned time.

Sign-up will be done on-line, and the link and QR code are both live. We hope to have a bulletin announcement, Flocknote announcement and slide ready by this weekend. Volunteers will also be needed to help at the photography sessions with registration. A sign-up genius link is being created, and we hope to include that in the aforementioned announcement.

An after-Mass announcement will be made after all Masses on April 11 & 12, and leaflets will be handed out that weekend, and the following weekend. The Hospitality Ministry has been contacted and will help with handouts.

New Items

1. Bishop's Lenten Gathering

The Bishop's second Lenten Gathering in Calgary will be held on March 19, 2026. All ministry coordinators have received an invitation. There will be some from SMCC attending.

2. Communion Rites (Organization and Posture)

Organization: A question arose as to the current manner in which Communion is distributed at Sunday Masses: the Presider consumes first, and then distributes to the Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and finally, the members of the Music Ministry. Can this process be improved so that an EMHC can distribute to the Altar Servers and Music Ministry. Fr. Vargas explained that the current practice ensures that Communion is distributed reverently and slowly; it's not about rushing through Communion. General discussion and agreement that the current protocol be maintained.

Posture: Is it necessary for everyone to stand until after all communicants have received. It was noted that while not mandated, it is a sign of respect and reverence to remain standing until all have received Communion, and the vessels have been removed from the altar.

3. World Youth Day 2027

The Men's Ministry has been discussing how to get youth (18 – 35) involved in going to Seoul, South Korea for World Youth Day in early August 2027. The Pope will be there August 5th – 8th. The Men's Ministry has been spreading the word with individual youth but would like to get more involved. There are 20 spaces left with Fr. Troy's group of 60 (for a total of 80), which are available to SMCC. Possible fundraising ideas have been discussed, including an evening at a brewery with a grill master. More information about World Youth Day is available on-line at <https://wydseoul.org/en>

4. Reconciliation Line-up Location

The current location of the line-up for reconciliation on Saturdays blocks the view of the Tabernacle. Is it possible to have it re-located to outside of the confessionals. Fr. Vargas explained that if the line is outside of the confessionals, there is a risk over-hearing. A solution is to place a sign indicating where the line is to start, and to have it positioned so that the front of the Tabernacle remains clear.

Pastor Items – Fr. Edmund

There will be a Lenten Retreat with Fr. Andrew Dalton who is an expert on the Shroud of Turin. Fr. Dalton will discuss the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ over three evenings: March 22, 23 and 24.

Other items that are being considered:

- a) new Tabernacle that has a glass front, so the Blessed Sacrament is visible (in lieu of a monstrance). This would require Diocesan approval.
- b) An evening to recognize Our Lady of Schoenstatt, possibly on May 8, to honor Mary as Queen.
- c) Saturday morning Mass, subject to volunteer availability.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Next Meeting – April 28, 2026