

St. Albert the Great Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021

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

Regrets: Bill Werbowski, Maryann Kusmirski, Denise Stoley

Chris M. called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Fr. Andrew and Santos C. led us in prayer and reflection. Greg V. to lead the February prayer.

Approval of minutes from December 2020

Motion made to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Moved by: Erin K. Seconded by: Edith T. Carried.

Pastor's report

Since November, when AHS updated their restrictions, not much has changed for our parish. We are still at 15% capacity which is closely monitored. The Christmas and New Year celebrations passed quite safely thanks to the volunteers.

Finance Council report – Edith T. & David N.

Thank you to the parishioners for their generosity over the Christmas season. The Diocese is asking us to protect our savings in preparation for the unknown. A financial report will be provided to the parishioners every month.

Old business

Update on masses and volunteers – Bob Y.

There was an increase in new volunteers over the Christmas season. Mass registrations are filling up earlier. Weekday mass registration has been increased to 60.

On Ash Wednesday, February 17 there will be three masses at 9 am, 5 pm and 7 pm. Ashes will be sprinkled on the foreheads. Volunteers will be able to sign up soon.

We now have three mechanical sprayers. Two of these were donated and one was purchased with a grant given by the province. Cleaning coordinators will be assigned for each mass so that there is consistent training to the volunteers.

Thank you to the volunteers for their continued support. Let us pray for them.

General communication with parishioners – Chris M.

The email was sent to about 5,700 unique email addresses. Over 5000 of these were successful. 73% opened the email. Only 56 people asked to be unsubscribed from the email. This may be something to try again with a Lenten message.

There was no charge to the parish for the video that was created with Fr. Andrew's message. The invoice indicated almost \$2K worth of value which included 26 videos, pictures and drone footage.

Our Facebook outreach has doubled since 2019.

formed.org resources review – Grant G.

The content was reviewed as a group. There are a variety of videos available on the site which can be leveraged for many purposes, including the following:

- Sacramental Prep
- RCIA
- Bible Study
- Youth
- Marian / Devotional
- Children's Liturgy
- Seasonal / Liturgical Enrichment

It is a great resource for ministries and parishioners. The material can be used to develop content for faith sessions but should not be the only thing that drives a session. The other danger is that it is based on American media – there is a risk of finding things that do not apply to the reality of our parishioners.

Livestream update – Florian B.

People appreciate that we livestream our masses. During the livestream there are about 80-90 live watchers on Facebook and 60 on Youtube. However, the recorded viewings are much higher. Gerry and Florian have been alternating managing the livestream. Another person has been trained on the technology and this would give someone else the opportunity to help.

Gospel pictures from the Diocese have been added to the start of the livestream. After the Communion prayer there is a post on how people can donate to the parish.

A new camera has been ordered and will arrive soon.

Website Development – Chris M.

Chris M. to meet with Gerry S. to make some changes to the website.

Virtual Christmas Event Review – Florian B.

The concert went very well. Thank you to all the performers. There were some technical issues due to the overloaded CPU, which was later resolved. The full video was shared for offline viewing. Donation links were opened as well. There were under 500 viewers on Youtube and 3,200 views on Facebook. We raised over \$3000 for our parish.

New business

Who is St. Albert the Great – Greg V.

This document is a visual representation of our parish and shows what our community is made of. Are there groups in the parish that we might have a big impact on? Or which groups can we draw into the parish? This could be a way to help us build ourselves.

Most of the communication the parish sends is one-way. People have different needs and we need to listen to them and find out what they need. People are engaged through mass and outreach ministries. 1:1 conversation helps to build a social relationship.

Many ministries are working as separate groups with little or no connection between groups or the parish. It would be nice if these ministries could share some of the activities or information with the broader parish community.

Communications strategy

There is a need to receive updates from the ministries that are active that can be shared with the parishioners. For those ministries that are temporarily suspended (because of pandemic) they should not feel left out or like they are not needed anymore. A communications strategy will need to be put into place.

Adjournment

Grant G. led us in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Chris M. (Chair)

Sarah P. (Secretary)