

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 2025 – Upper Room, 6 pm

In Attendance: Fr. Ivan Kalamuzi, Sheila Bacon, Ben Braun, Sean Kunath, Pete Manczyk, Tobias Nathe, Jeff Talbert. Absent: Michael Heinrichs, Laura Keener, Mary Ellen McDaniel, Ambrocio Mendez

Opening Prayer: Fr. Ivan Kalamuzi

August Minutes: Approved via email, September 6, 2025.

Focused Topics:

Review of Phase One of Church Renovation, Picnic and Festival Results, September Pilgrimage

Scripture for Reflection:

“Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness” (James 1:2-3).

“More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

Church Renovation

No updates.

Picnic and Festival Results

August Picnic: Not much follow up regarding ministries that were represented.

327 in attendance (160 Guatemalan kids, 10 Anglo kids)

If done annually, we may change the date to late May/early June to have better spacing between events.

Latino Cultural Festival had about 700 people on Saturday and 250-300 people on Sunday. Anglo participation was minimal. Needed more tables.

September Pilgrimage

September 20 to the Abbey Gethsemane. The advertisement is in the bulletin and on Flocknote. 12 bus slots still available as of meeting.

Miscellaneous

Fr. Ivan will be in Uganda, November 28 - December 8

Addendum: Parish Council Ministry Reports

Sean Kunath

WOH Report:

- Attendance for the Parish Picnic:
 - Total: 327
 - Guatemalan Community: ~105 Adult and 160 Children
 - Anglo Community: ~52 Adults and 10 Children
- We put together parish novena insert and handout in bulletin for upcoming Sep. 20th pilgrimage
- Working on comprehensive proposal for revitalizing/bolstering our existing ministries

Church Renovation:

- As noted, we are nearing the end of Phase 1 of the construction; More details will be provided by Fr. Ivan or me during our meeting.

Pete Manczyk

1. A Covington Deanery Pastoral Council meeting was held on Thursday, August 28 at Mother of God Church with Fr. Michael Comer (the new dean) leading the meeting. The emphasis was on a discussion on the state and health of Parish Councils across the Diocese (especially in the Covington Deanery). It was mentioned that the various Parish Councils have different numbers of members, different formats, and different roles. However, it was agreed that all Parish Councils should envision about what is possible in the parishes and figure out how to get there. The Bishop and the Diocesan Pastoral Council want to take steps to encourage the healthy and synodal development of the lay voice in Parish Councils by studying and encouraging best practices in cooperation with the pastors. Fr. Comer will set the time later for the next Covington Deanery Pastoral Council meeting.
2. Flocknote messages continue to be sent on a regular basis, including the “Diocese of Covington Media” and “Nugget from Fr. Ivan’s Homily” emails.
3. Social Media messages continue to be posted to both Facebook and Twitter (X). While mostly Diocesan messages, we have started to include more parish content as well.
4. No update on the new website other than the next steps for Pete include training on the new management dashboard (maintenance is very different than the old website). Pete is hoping that Becki Walker and/or Mary Palmer will be able to join him in the training in the next month or so. After that, a schedule will be made to cut over to using the new website and disabling the old one.
5. There is a Church Renovation Video on the front page of the website. It is a slideshow of pictures showing the work that has been done so far.
6. The school website has been updated for the 2025-2026 content and is updated weekly for school news. The school has been asked to provide teacher photos and biographies for the website. This is a big gap for St. Anthony in comparison to other school websites. This will become even more important when going to the new website with the way school information is organized.

7. Pilgrimage online sign-up – We are using a Flocknote form for sign-ups and creating a special communications group. Mary Palmer has been providing names from “Parish Center” sign-ups (the manual process) so that we have one list. As of this email, 35 have signed up with 12 open seats. Flocknote is NOT keeping track of who paid.
8. In September, the St. Anthony Men’s Group suspended regular meetings due to the Latino Festival and the Pilgrimage. In October, the Men’s Group will celebrate its 21st Anniversary and will put up the Pro-Life Crosses on Saturday, October 4 and take them down on Saturday, October 18.

Mary Ellen McDaniel

Pete has an updated list of the attendees for the Pilgrimage. I am not sure if we need to call everyone to reconfirm and advise that there is no cafeteria/lunch at the Abbey.

The only other item that was not covered last month is the assumption that we are still having our Baby Bottle campaign in October with CareNet. They did advise if we are interested in speakers, they would prefer the second week in October.

Ambrocio Mendez

The Guatemalan community has families who are going on the pilgrimage and are going to go with their own vehicles.

Our festival was a great blessing to us. New families came to learn about our parish of St. Anthony the festival.

The first wedding on August 31, 2025, just passed another wedding September 21, 2025, another wedding on September 28, 2025. A Quinseñera for October 12, 2025.

Jeff Talbert

School news...

Veronica Schweitzer reports:

- Current enrollment is up to 70 kids.
- We received \$3000.00 from the DPAA for miscellaneous security items such as new walkie-talkies, window film for interior doors, along with window repair and the boys restroom.

PTO, Mollie Fisher updated us on current St Anthony restaurant nights so far for this year. They are:

Saturday, September 20th, Dunkin Donuts

Wednesday, November 12th, Gold Star

Tuesday, December 2nd, Texas Roadhouse

Wednesday, February 11th, Gold Star

Tuesday, March 10th, Texas Roadhouse

Flyers will be sent out for each one via Facebook, and the bulletin.

No news from Boosters at this time.