

One in Faith Area Catholic Community

Church of St. Mary, Gathering Space

May 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Opening Prayer

The regular meeting of the One in Faith Area Catholic Community was called to order at 7:05 pm on May 13, 2025, by Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Lisa Wuertz led the group with a prayer for the new pope.

Members Present

Priests: Fr. Mitchell Bechtold, Fr. Oswaldo Roche

St. Mary: Joe Roehrl, Jenna Middendorf

Sacred Heart: Jean Hemker

St. Rose of Lima: Jan Herzog, Lillian Arnzen

St. Michael: Lisa Wuertz, Mark Schoenberg

St. Andrew: Herman Lensing, Carol Inderrieden

St. John the Baptist: Marvin Meyer, Char Meyer

Staff & Notetakers: Amy Hoeschen

Members Not Present

Priest: Fr. Daniel Walz

Sacred Heart: Tony Klasen

Immaculate Conception: Tatum Holdvogt, Maureen Schaefer

Staff: Pam Pundsack

Approval of Agenda and Minutes- consensus approval via email

Consultative Discussion - Pastors

- Fr. Mitchell – He shared that he does not like the reason to delay making a change because something else may be changing. He brought up that he would like to consider changing the Melrose Sunday Mass times from 10am to 9am and 12:30pm Hispanic to 11:30am Hispanic. This would allow for Fr. Mitchell and Fr. Oswaldo to be done on Sundays prior to 2pm. Jan Herzog suggested doing 9am and 11am to have all the Masses at the top of the hour. After discussion, it is best to have the second Mass at 11:30am to allow time for baptism during or following the early Mass and/or a social following Mass. If they are too close together parking can become an issue as well. The anticipated start time for this change will be July 6, 2025. The Area Catholic Community All Things Planning Process is underway and going well. No decisions have been made.
- Fr. Oswaldo Roche – He is happy he is not moving.

Parish Reports

- St. Mary – A new storage shed has been built. They are settling into this new location. There are a lot of former church items (windows, pews, etc.) that are scattered in different storage areas. They are in the process of discussing plans for the old rectory. RCIA has changed to a new rite of OCIA. They are looking into this new program. Fr. Mitchell has been here almost a year and is planning on placing a strong emphasis on evangelization this next year as he has gotten to know the people this first year. The parish is watching their budgets very closely. The parish raffle tickets are advertised to be sold at All Stars in St. Rosa. Fr. Mitchell asked if this is ok. St. Rosa members stated that this is just fine. The owners do this to show support for the Catholic churches.

- Sacred Heart – The parish festival will be celebrated on July 20. Planning is moving along well for this event. The school is doing well. Kindergarten registration is full for the 25/26 school year. Preschool is full or close to full as well.
- Immaculate Conception – Summer Raffle and More is underway. This event will take place on June 7 with an indoor Mass at 4pm and activities and live music outdoors to follow.
- St. Rose of Lima – They cleaned church this past week. The upcoming festival and cash raffle is underway. This event will take place on August 31.
- St. Michael – The cross in the cemetery is in the process of being taken down and brought in for restoration and repainting. Divine Mercy Sunday was a huge success.,
- St. Andrew – Barley Days is being planned. It is a joint event with the rec club, community, and parish.
- St. John the Baptist – Corpus Christi will take place on June 22 with an outdoor procession. The band will be part of the procession and then stay and put on an hour-long concert. There will be a social as well. Fr. Mitchell will preside for this Mass. Fr. Mitch has purchased a portable sound system that can be used for this event. During the month of May a rosary is being prayed outside at the grotto.
- Hispanic Community – Fr. Oswaldo stated that the Hispanic Community is struggling with some of the new OCIA process.

Old Business

- ACC logo – Fr. Mitchell stated that he has not heard from the graphic designer. He feels that a logo should be something simple that a child can draw like the Chevy or Ford logo. He feels symbolism is important as well. There is nothing more to report at this time.
- Play progress—the play is not happening. There was only one response of interest. A production can not be put on with one person. Fr. Mitchell mentioned that they also looked at doing something like the “Actoberfest” that was previously put on by the diocese. This is a lot of work though but he would be happy to support it if anyone is interested in taking it on.
- Jubilee – Amy presented that the Jubilee Year has set aside June 28/29 to celebrate our priests. The parish staffs discussed this at their staff meeting. The priests stated a small social following Masses would be plenty. Fr. Mitchell brought up adding their testimonial to their homily that weekend. The group liked this idea. Amy will bring this back to Fr. Dan requesting this on behalf of the ACC pastoral council. Amy also suggested that a possible ACC Passport could be done to have a tour of the 7 churches in this ACC. If anyone is interested, they can reach out to Amy at the Freeport office.
- Parish Census—Melrose has completed, Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception, and St. Rose of Lima will complete this with the new directory. Fr. Mitchell asked if he could reach out to the Freeport office to see how they have done this in the past to give guidance for Meire Grove, Greenwald, and Spring Hill.

New Business

- Fr. Mitchell shared that a group of Germans are coming to Meire Grove and he is planning to over an additional Mass on September 14 with an authentic German Meal to follow. They will have the Mass at 11am with a priest called in to cover the Mass in Melrose. Kurt Meyer and Fr. Mitchell are putting this plan together.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm with a motion by Char and seconded by Jenna. Motion passed. The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on August 12th, 2025, at the Church of St. Mary.