



Minutes of the Meeting
February 4, 2026

Members Present: Rev. Gabriel Baltes, OSB
Doug Becker, Chair
Steve Antonini
Nora English (Video)
Jennifer Hantsch
Jacqueline Skelly
Matthew Krumdrick
Deacon Jack Hayes (Video)
Dana Hengstler
Mitch Whorlow
Corey Humphreys

Absent: John Jelinek
Gina Santori
John Turley

Guests Present: Fr Max Behna
Jim Susic
Denise Petty

I. Opening

Evening prayer began at 7:05 p.m., and was led by Doug Becker. The meeting began at 7:12 p.m.

II. Old Business

- A. Minutes of the Meeting – Doug Becker asked that going forward Council members email with any questions or comments on the prior meetings minutes.
- B. School Board – Cory shared with the Council that the School Board is starting to form the 2027 School Centennial Committee. Some initiatives include establishing a Sister Carolyn OSB Memorial Fund, retreats for teachers, and recruiting. The Board had a presentation and discussion about seeking ways to enhance governance practices, clarify roles and responsibilities of the school board, and transforming fundraising into mission driven advancement.
- C. Ministries – Matthew Krumdrick expressed his excitement that we have several OCIA candidates. He is also busy preparing for the SJA Parish Mission. Father Jack Conley, OP will be the Presenter for this year's parish mission. We are so excited to have him back! There will be unique daily presentations at 9:15am and 7pm. Please stay after mass and enjoy some coffee, donuts, and wisdom of

Father Conley. Matthew is wrapping up the current session of Sycamore. A new session will start after the Parish Mission. We have Mardi Gras Party on Tuesday, Feb. 17th and a special Teen Night on Sunday, March 1st.

III. Pastor's Update

- A. Father announced that he has put together a committee to work on finding a replacement for Lori Trinche. The position has been posting with the Diocese. We have already received 3 applications.
- B. Father will be out of office starting February 5th until February 14th.

IV. New Business – Amazing Parish – Guest speaker: Fr. Max Behna

Fr. Max Behna gave an excellent presentation on what Amazing Parish has done for his Parish. He started as Pastor at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church 7 years ago and started using Amazing Parish four years ago. He has seen many fruits from this initiative. Amazing Parish is about spiritual renewal. It's a movement, and a way of leading in a Parish.

Amazing Parish will work with our Pastor to coach him. The coaching would be monthly via Zoom. They would help the Pastor then set up a Leadership team of 3-5 people, who he would meet with weekly. Amazing Parish would help us create a vision and culture to help Parishioners encounter Christ. Its goal is to help us create a healthy organization and create unity. They will help us develop and mission and vision for our Parish. The Leadership Team works closely with the Pastor to create a clear vision which will bear fruit.

Amazing Parish focuses on core values and ways of behaving required for staff and volunteers. Fr. Max Behna said that his Parish chose of focus on – encounter Christ, grow Christ, and be Christ. They also focus on radical hospitality and being joyfully Catholic. It's important to have the staff on board and supportive of the new initiatives. Fr. Max started seeing a change in his staff. You could feel the change in energy and a strong feeling of welcome. He prays daily with his staff, and invites any parishioners present to join them in prayer. This program has been so successful at his parish that he has seen his congregation grow and they have added a third mass to Sundays. Fr. Max receives positive feedback from his parishioners about the changes that have been made.

Amazing Parish says there are six questions every Parish should ask themselves.

1. Why do we exist? The organization's core purpose.
2. How do we behave? The limits of diversity that can exist within an organization – the core values that all employees must share to thrive.

3. What do we do? A simple statement that defines the organization's business.
4. How will we succeed? The anchors that define the strategy of the organization.
5. What is most important right now? The organization's rallying cry and overarching objectives that are shared across the leadership team.
6. Who must do what? The role of each leader in achieving those objectives.

The Council discussed everything they learned from Fr. Max about Amazing Parish. Everyone agreed that this is a program worth learning more about and pursuing to use at SJA.

Action items: Father Gabriel said he would reach out to Amazing Parish to learn about their fee schedule and to see if Amazing Parish can make a presentation to the Council as well.

V. Next Meetings

Our next meeting will be in April 8, 2026.

Parish Council Membership – Doug Becker brought to the Council's attention that membership is down to 9 members. Our Bi-Laws state that the Council should consist of 12 members. Doug asked everyone to think about soft recruiting, and we will formally address this topic at our next meeting in April. We would like to install a few new members at the June meeting.

V. Closing Prayer

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m. Father Gabriel led the Council in the closing prayer.

Official Prayer of Make:

*Ever-loving God, maker of all good things,
You made us in your image and called us through baptism
Give us now the grace to be made into your disciples,
And grant that in being so made, we will do as you commanded
To go and make other disciples as we catechize, evangelize
And put our faith into action.
Through the intercession of our patron, St. Francis Xavier,
St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints,
We humbly make our prayer. Amen.*