

Minutes from Vestal-Endicott Parishes meeting

Meeting at OLGC, Church Hall, 7 May 2026

Attendees: Fr. Prior (OLS, OLGC), John Cummiskey (OLGC), Margie Fetsko (OLGC), Dc. Tom Harley (OLGC), Dc. Paul Heiland (OLGC), Kim Potter (OLGC), Bob Brown (OLS), Scott Hotalen (OLS), Fr. Kirkman (Sts. Ambrose, Anthony, Joseph), Dc. Bill Matts (Sts. Ambrose, Anthony, Joseph), Gina Kane (Sts. Anthony, Joseph), Diane Julian (St. Joseph), Jim Silkworth (St. Joseph), Don Mastro (St. Joseph), Terri Broden (St. Joseph), Ralph Broden (St. Joseph), Mike Brunner (St. Ambrose), John Bombaski (St. Ambrose), Tim Limer (St. Ambrose), Helen Makers (St. Ambrose), Ron Kaye (St. Anthony), Mark Whiting (St. Anthony), Christine Pasquale (St. Anthony), Amy Roma (St. Anthony), Stephanie Surowka-Sanders (St. Anthony), Karen Taluba (St. Anthony)

Absent: Brian Schmidt (OLS), Bernadette Van Donsel (OLS), Dc. Ed Blaine (OLS), Dc. Michael Carroll (OLGC), Dave Archer (OLGC), Eric Donaldson (OLGC), Chris Free (OLGC), Mark Goodwin (OLGC), Fr. Joseph Ahukana (Sts. Ambrose, Anthony, Joseph), Rebecca Falank (St. Anthony), Jim Gill (St. Joseph - St. Casimir), Pat Ryan (St. Ambrose), Luke Stanton (facilitator)

Minutes (taken by Dc. Heiland)

Agenda

Fr. Prior led the meeting

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. Prior opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Introductions & Welcome:

Welcome to all who attended. Attendance was recorded on the sign-in sheet.

3. Church Name

A presentation of the new Endicott Parish Name results was made by Terri Broden from the subcommittee. The parishioners voted for the following names to be submitted to Bishop Lucia as our recommendation:

1. Merciful Heart of Christ
2. Mary, Mother of God
3. Prince of Peace

Bishop Lucia will review these choices and make the final decision as to the name. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

4. Proposed Mass Schedule:

Fr. Prior recommended to keep the weekday and weekend Mass schedules as they currently exist for OLS and the 4 Endicott parishes.

5. Envisioning the Possibility

6. Fr. Prior proposed the idea of closing all four Endicott churches and building a new church in a central location with no steps and ample parking.

7. Open Floor & Sharing

Faith Formation was discussed for Fall 2026. It was suggested combining OLGC's Faith Formation program with Sts. Ambrose, Anthony and Joseph churches and be separate from OLS.

Mass Intentions can be taken through December 31, 2026.

Minutes from Vestal-Endicott Parishes meeting

8. Closing Prayer

Fr. Kirkman closed the meeting in prayer.

9. Next Meeting

No meeting is currently planned until Bishop Lucia releases the new Endicott parish name and assigns the pastor and pastoral associate.

Attachment:

Vestal-Endicott Parishes Steering Committee

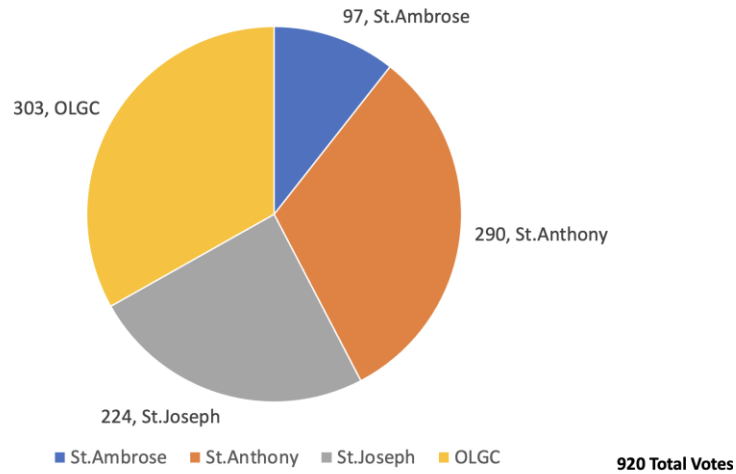
New Merged Endicott Parish Name Parishioner Voting Results May 7, 2026

Ten Candidates for merged Endicott Parish Name

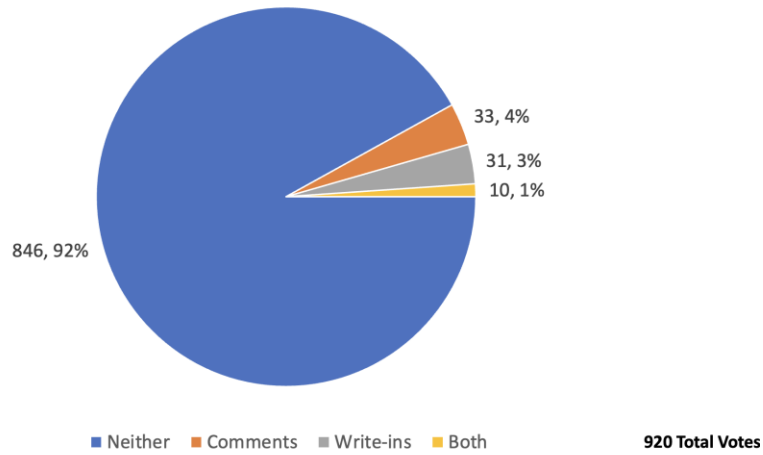
- Subcommittee formed at Vestal-Endicott Parishes meeting on Feb 10, 2026
 - Chris Free, Diane Julian, Kim Potter, Scott Hotalen, Terri Broden
- Members brainstormed just under 50 initial suggestions, with focus on
 - Official titles of Christ or the Blessed Mother, Canonized Saints
 - No secular or geographically-oriented names
- Initial list was scrubbed to
 - Remove names already used in Syracuse diocese or used within the local vicinity
 - Remove duplicates; Consolidate similar names to a single version/choice
- Scrubbed list was further reduced to identify the official Ten candidates
- The Ten candidates were:
 - Submitted to Fr. Prior, Fr. Kirkman and Dc. Heiland on March 24
 - Placed on "Ballots" for Parishioner voting to be held between April 12 and May 1

Minutes from Vestal-Endicott Parishes meeting

Count of Ballots by Parish



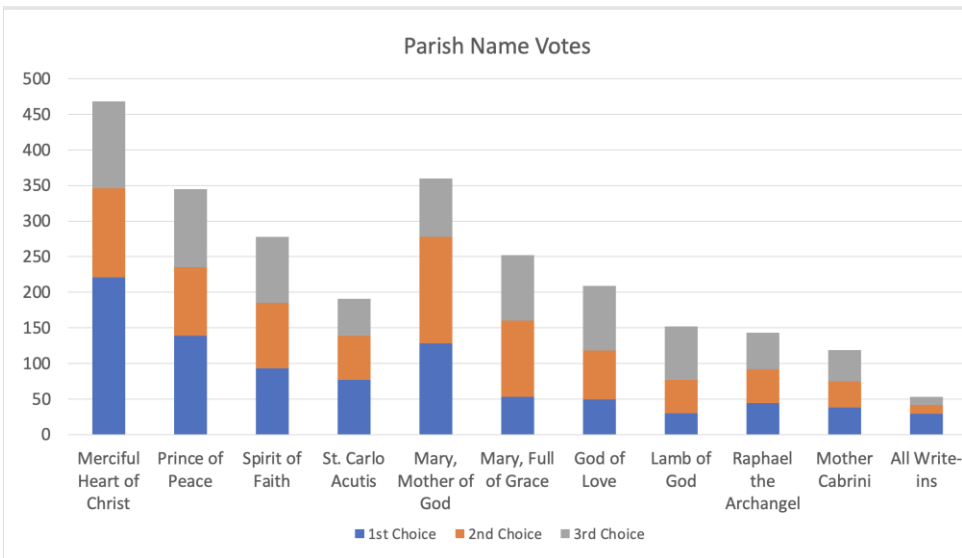
Count of Ballots with Comments and/or Write-Ins



Top Three Choices

1. Merciful Heart of Christ 468 total votes
2. Mary, Mother of God 360 total votes
3. Prince of Peace 345 total votes

Minutes from Vestal-Endicott Parishes meeting



Ballot Comments

| Count | Comment |
|-------|---|
| 3 | Not enough communication regarding the merge/changes - Confusing and frustrating. Ex: Explanation for new name came after voting had started. |
| 9 | I like the current names. Why do we need to change? Why do we need an additional name? |
| 1 | Is each church getting a new name? Or is there going to be one name for all? |
| 12 | Who picked these names? and/or I do not like any of the choices. |
| 1 | There was no input from parishioners for new names. |
| 1 | Naming the merged parish for a newer saint would overshadow the importance of the original churches. |
| 1 | Difficult to choose between Jesus or Mary |
| 1 | Should be named for a saint. |
| 1 | These names are too "new age". |
| 2 | None of the choices fit our <u>current status</u> . It should honor the coming together of churches. |
| 1 | "Merciful Heart of Christ" seems old-fashioned. Need something more welcoming. |
| 1 | "Spirit of Faith" is the only one I like |
| 1 | "Spirit of Faith" sounds Protestant, prefer objectively Catholic names |
| 1 | "St. Carlo Acutis" is a saint of our time, was young and is an inspiration to the youth. |
| 1 | "St. Carlo Acutis" - Who? |
| 2 | "Raphael the Archangel" <u>brings to mind</u> the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles |
| 1 | "Mother Cabrini" - Who? |
| 4 | Requests for specific prefix or suffix (ex: Saint Raphael, XXX Catholic Community) |
| 5 | Drawings or notes, does not appear to be comments about the names or voting process |

Write-In Name Candidates (1 of 2)

| Write-in Names | 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| All Holy Angels | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| All Saints | 8 | 4 | 3 | 15 |
| Archangels | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Christ Our Savior | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Christ the King | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Council of Saints | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Divine Mercy | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Endicott Catholic Christian Community | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Epiphany of our Lord | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Family of Saints | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Good Shepherd | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Holy ArchAngels | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Holy Communion of Saints | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Holy Trinity | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Michael the Archangel | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Minutes from Vestal-Endicott Parishes meeting

Write-In Name Candidates (2 of 2)

| Write-in Names | 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Most Holy Saints or Apostles | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Our Ladies of the Southern Tier | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Our Lady of Angels | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Our Lady of Endicott | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Our Lady of Grace | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Panis Angelicus | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sacred Heart of Christ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| St. Dymphna of Healing and Grace | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| St. Gregory of Nyssa | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| St. Nicholas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Pier Georgio | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| St.Stephen Protomartyr | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| The Assumption | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Three Saints | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Transfiguration | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Virtue of Charity | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 31 | 29 | 13 | 11 | 53 |