

Holy Family Parish Council Minutes
April 28, 2026
McAleer Hall

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Gregg.
Fr. Beckman led our opening prayer.

Roll Call:

Present: Fr. Gary Beckman, Tom Gregg, Amy Merschman, MaryJo Mertens, Lorenzo Sanchez, Floyd Krogmeier, Megan Rempe, Katie Englund, Thomas Older, and Diane Powers.

Absent: Karen Robbins

Excused: Kelly Giese

Tom Gregg noted that an addition to the meeting's agenda needed to be made. "Parish Council Terms" was added under "New Business C." A motion to approve the updated agenda was made by MaryJo Mertens and seconded by Katie Englund. Motion carried.

A motion to approve last month's minutes (which included a change to Floyd Krogmeier's status from "absent" to "excused") was made by Katie Englund and seconded by MaryJo Mertens. Motion carried.

HTC Report: None

Pastoral Comments:

Father Beckman reported that a lot was going on for the youth of our parish:

- 4/29/2026 would be the last class for Religious Education participants for the '25-26 year. There were plans for a May Crowning to be held in the Prayer Garden for that group.
- The NET Retreat for 7th and 8th grade students of HTC would be held at Roling Hall on Friday May 1, 2026.
- First Communion will be held on May 3, 2026 during 10:30a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart.
- Confirmation for the youth of our Holy Family parish, Keokuk, St. Mary's (West Point), St. James and St. John's would be held on May 3, 2026 at 2:00p.m., at St. James Church, in St. Paul, with Bishop Dennis officiating. Father will be in attendance as well.
- There will be an all-school Mass at St. Mary's, in West Point, on Wednesday, May 20th, at 8:45a.m. After Mass, the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the HTC School Expansion Project will be held. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Father also informed us that a meeting with the finance committee had been held and we are currently working on bids for security cameras and lights. Mr. Dave Roggy, is helping with his expertise and knowledge after helping St. Wenceslaus, in Iowa City, with their current security measures. Mr. Roggy will speak to our parish community about establishing our own security needs during the May 16th and May 17th masses.

Commission Reports:

Social Action: MaryJo Mertens reported that she will be in attendance of the May 7th EOM dinner. The dinner was changed to a different date for the month of April. Contact Joe and Chris Panther, or Tom and Kathy Wilkens if interested in helping at the End of Month Meals. Tom Gregg added that the Prison Ministry (that is under the umbrella of Social Action) has resumed. Father Beckman reported that he held mass there on April 22nd, and that Mass will continue to be held for prisoners, at the Iowa State Penitentiary, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Faith Formation: Report submitted by Kelly Giese.

Youth Ministry: Report submitted by Katie Englund.

Church Life/Family Life: Megan Rempe reported that the Alleman Bell presentation given by Holy Family parishioner, Dave Moehn, had been held the previous Sunday and was well received, and very informative. There were approximately forty attendees. Listeners enjoyed sandwiches, chips and good fellowship. There was even a past Holy Family priest in attendance - Fr. Wilkening made the trip to Fort Madison to listen to the presentation.

Father Beckman also asked Megan how the plans for the Parish Photo Directory project were coming along. Megan reports that she will be in contact with the photographer again soon. Megan is planning/hoping for a tentative Fall of 2026 date to begin this project.

Stewardship: Lorenzo Sanchez said that there was nothing new to report in regards to the ministry itself. However, he did pass out a guide to all members of the council that described the different groups that are under the Stewardship ministry.

Liturgy Committee: Report submitted by Diane Powers.

In addition to the report that was submitted by Diane Powers, Sacristan and Church Decor Specialist, Kathy Nelson created a "duty sheet" for her successor. This sheet was passed out to Parish Council members. The Parish Council is looking for and discussing different ways to alleviate some of the many hours spent doing this ministry. The council acknowledged that this ministry is a very large responsibility for one person. We will ask our parish members to prayerfully consider getting involved and signing up for tasks to help decorate the church. "Many hands make light work."

Building and Grounds: Floyd wanted to take a minute and make the council aware of the tremendous void that has been left after the passing of parishioner Larry Sallen. Larry took care of many tasks around our church and parish buildings. Floyd remarked, "He just did them without being prompted, and he knew when they needed to be done." Rest well, good and faithful servant. It was brought up amongst the council members that a list of "things to do around the parish" would be helpful. It was also suggested that forming another volunteer group to tend to the "to-do list" could help fill the very BIG shoes left behind. We will talk more about this at the next meeting.

Finance: Report Submitted. Fr. Beckman thanked the parish for their generosity of stewardship and giving.

Old Business:

- After the untimely passing of Jon Heyland, the plans for St Mary's Convent to become a homeless shelter is no longer moving forward, and the convent remains in Holy Family Parishes possession.
- In regards to the repairs needed for St Mary's Church, we await the Diocesan approval.

New Business:

- Parish Picnic:** The picnic will be held on June 28th, at Old Settler's Park, in Fort Madison. 10:30am Mass will be held at the park with food and entertainment to follow. Amy Merschman will be the Picnic Coordinator. Amy has asked Megan Rempe to help with certain aspects of the planning- the two of them will continue to make plans and report back to the PC next month. All parish members are invited to attend.
- Next Meeting Date:** **May 26th** at **5pm**, McAleer Hall.
- Parish Council Terms:** Tom Gregg's term is expiring. Tom has decided to step down as Council President and as a member of the Parish Council. Megan Rempe, Lorenzo Sanchez, Karen Robbins, and Thomas Older have all completed their first term. Karen's position will not be refilled upon her vacancy, but we are hopeful that the other three will stay on for another term. It was suggested that Vice President, Amy Merschman, be considered for filling the soon-to-be vacant President position. Amy will let the council know of her decision at their May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Father Beckman.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Merschman, Secretary/Vice President