

Holy Family Parish Council Minutes
August 25, 2026
5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Merschman. Fr. Beckman led the council in the Diocesan Prayer for Vocations.

Members present: Fr. Gary Beckman, Amy Merschman, Diane Powers, Katie Englund, Kell Giese, Floyd Krogmeier, Mary Jo Mertens, Lorenzo Sanchez, Megan Rempe, James Boyles & Brenda Graham

Guests: Mike Panther

Motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Rempe, second by Sanchez. Motion carried.

HTC Report submitted by Emily Biddenstadt. The administration and teachers have been preparing for the new school year. First day of school was August 24. The school board approved a policy for early graduation. One student came forward to request early graduation. The all-school Mass will be held at St. Mary's in West Point Wednesday, August 25. Fr. Beckman will be celebrating. The high school volleyball team will be involved in the outdoor volleyball showcase Battle at Bracewell in Burlington.

Amy Merschman is excited to serve as president of the parish council. We're called to be good shepherds. She will work to ensure all parts work together, will listen, offer advice and serve. She then introduced the two new members – Brenda Graham and James Boyles. Fr. Beckman offered a blessing for Brenda and James. All council members then gave brief introductions of themselves and shared a blessing they experienced this summer.

Discussion of Chapter 5, Becoming the Good News followed. Had Catholic guilt as a child. Expected not to mess up – fear of going to hell. Need to see God as loving, that He exists and is loves them. Need to see that before they can have a conversion of heart. Where and how does the parish provide opportunities for people to experience the good, true and beautiful?

Motion by Rempe, second by Mertens to approve the June minutes. Motion carried.

Comments by Fr. Beckman – Participating in the monthly prison Mass, weekly nursing home Mass, a couple of home blessings & hospital visits. Information will be in the bulletin regarding the status of SS Mary & Joseph church, have had a couple funerals, appreciated Fr. Martin covering Mass while I was on vacation. Meeting with the fire chief re sidewalk closing at SS Mary & Joseph.

Building & Grounds – Mike Panther reported that the air conditioning unit for the upstairs on the west side of the office had gone out last year. This year the unit on the east side quit working. Both units were replaced at cost. Two men were hired to install the units at a cost of \$1200. Restoration work on the porch railing of the office continues. Two parishioners helped with stripping and sanding. Posts are ready to be dipped in linseed oil to preserve them.

Plan to replace the metal coat racks in McAleer Hall with oak racks. Altar & Rosary is funding a 190" screen to be installed in Roling Hall. A new camera system is being installed at Sacred Heart Church. Six of nine are still on back order. New speakers have been installed in the back of Sacred Heart and are working now. Barngrover Glass came down to install the safety film on the entry doors at Sacred Heart and had measured the wrong church. The leak in Roling Hall on the west wall will be looked at by a roofer. Both water heaters at Roling were leaking. Commercial on-demand units were purchased to replace them. New LED lights will be installed in the sacristy at Sacred Heart. Fifteen parishioners repainted lines in the parking lot at Sacred Heart and Roling.

Church & Family Life – Megan Rempe reported that the parish directory is a go. The photographer, Amy Lehmann, is from Burlington. Photos are being done at Roling Hall. Available dates are filling up nicely. Working on updating parishioners' information and plan to have directory completed by late fall or the first of the year. Amy Merschman asked if there's a yearbook class at HTC that could assist with compilation. Megan suggested that individual photos of the parish council and office staff be taken for the directory. She's also going to check into the possibility of compiling the directory using Google Docs.

Faith Formation/Ministry of Care – Report submitted by Kelly Giese and made a part of these minutes. The Mary's Meals/Steve Angrisano concert had a great turnout. Enough money was raised to feed 200 children for one year. Mark Forrest will lead our parish in worship and music in a Night of Prayer Wednesday, Sept. 2 at Sacred Heart. Welcome Home Campaign letters will be mailed next week. Religious Ed classes begin Sept. 16. Teaming up with West Point and adding a NET Retreat Sept. 30 for religious ed middle school and Confirmation classes. She Shall be Called Woman will begin Tuesday, Sept. 15 for the fall.

Susan Becker has volunteered to be our parish nurse and will coordinate Parish Health Ministry. A committee of volunteers to help parishioners in their homes is being formed.

Liturgy – Report submitted by Diane Powers and made a part of these minutes. Sacristans will meet Sept. 1 to schedule for the next quarter. Additional sacristans are needed. Funeral choir numbers are small, but a group is available when needed. Nothing to report for lectors or adoration.

The Knights of Columbus held their annual Altar Server picnic & fishing tournament July 25. Twenty-nine children participated with over 50 attending the Boyds' pond.

Social Action – Continue to hear good things about the availability of laundry facilities to those unable to do so at home.

Stewardship – Noted that a homeless person at Sacred Heart Church was assisted about a week ago. Lorenzo presented a list of contact numbers for assistance that would be good to post in the entry of the church.

Youth Ministry – Report submitted by Katie Englund and made a part of these minutes. Youth group will resume Sept. 16. 9 - 12 grade will meet 5 - 6 p.m. and 6 - 8 grade will meet 6 - 7 p.m. Plans are to attend Christ Our Life in Des Moines. Drivers with SUVs or vans will be

needed. The youth group will be called Revive. Romans 12:2 has been selected as the verse to guide them – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” There will be a Zoom meeting on the 27th to learn more about cost and details for NCYC 2027.

Finance – Report submitted by Fr. Beckman and made a part of these minutes. Reminded the council that we are at the beginning of our fiscal year which can skew the numbers.

Discussed adding Brenda Graham to Stewardship Committee to replace Amy Merschman. James Boyles will be added to Building & Grounds.

Parish picnic – Weather was quite hot and attendance was about 75 parishioners. There was leftover food that was sent home with volunteers. Parish council members should plan to arrive early to help set up and stay to clean up. Joe Peitz asked about the possibility of doing a spring fish fry in place of the picnic.

Kelly Giese found three crucifixes in the office that will be installed in Roling Hall. One has already been installed.

Update on disposition of SSMJ convent – one person went through and isn’t interested in purchasing. The Finance Council will meet next month and decide what to do with the building if no offers to purchase are forthcoming.

Update on SSMJ church – Engineering firm, Klingner & Associates, will assess repairs needed. Then Kraus will provide estimates to repair. This process will likely take several months to complete – may be after the first of the year before we hear numbers.

Katie Englund suggested the possibility of having someone take pictures at Christmas of families in church.

Discussion about the possible creation of a committee for social media. Other churches have a positive presence on social media and this could be a good way to be seen.

Motion by Rempe, second by Sanchez to approve the creation of a Social Media Committee to be headed by Brenda Graham.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 @ 5 p.m.

Members reminded to read Chapter 6 of Becoming the Good News.

Meeting closed with prayer by Fr. Beckman.

Motion by Mertens, second by Rempe to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Powers, Secretary