

HOLY FAMILY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
March 24, 2026
McAleer Hall

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Fr. Gary Beckman, Tom Gregg, Amy Merschman, Mary Jo Mertens, Lorenzo Sanchez, Thomas Older, Diane Powers, Katie Englund, Kelly Geise

Absent: Floyd Krogmeier, Megan Rempe, Karen Robbins

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Diane Powers and seconded by Mary Jo Mertens. Motion carried.

HTC Report: None

There were no additions or corrections to the February 17 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Katie Englund and seconded by Mary Jo Mertens. Diane Powers abstained due to her absence from the prior meeting.

We had two guests in attendance:

President Tom Gregg introduced guest Kathy Nelson. Kathy spoke to the parish council about her decision to step away from her current duties as sacristan. She is urging the council to prayerfully consider other parish members who would make good candidates for this position. Once names are brought forward, she asked that we reach out to these individuals to see if they would be interested in volunteering their time to the church. She shared that it is a very rewarding experience.

We are also in need of volunteers to help decorate the church and prepare for daily and weekly Masses. Please let this be a reminder to all parish members that we are being called to serve our parish. Please prayerfully consider helping, or ask someone you believe would be a great asset to our group of volunteers.

Dave Moehn was our second guest in attendance. He came to reiterate his offer to speak to our community about the history of the Alleman Bell. This bell is an important part of our heritage, and we hope the event will be well attended.

This will take place on Sunday, April 26, at McAleer Hall. Sandwiches, chips, and drinks will be provided. More information and reminders will be sent out via Flocknotes and the church bulletin. Please help spread the word.

PASTORAL COMMENTS:

Fr. Beckman informed the council that the Diocese of Davenport has been contacted regarding our intent to hire a contractor to make necessary repairs to Sts. Mary and Joseph Church. We are currently waiting for approval to move forward with the project. Once approved, a Corporate Resolution will be drawn up outlining the work needed, the cost of repairs, and who will complete the work.

There was a discussion and review of Chapter 3 of Becoming the Good News. This had been a monthly assignment given to the Council by Fr. Beckman, where council members read and come prepared for discussion.

Main takeaways this month included:

- Create spaces for open communication
- All people who attend Mass should be actively participating and growing closer in their relationship with God
- Charity is our call from the Eucharist
- Be still and listen to what God is calling us to do
- Be intentional with our faith
- Ask yourself: “How do others see Christ in us?”
- Live it—our relationship with Christ is part of who we are and who we are becoming
- Grow in our prayer life; learn to pray and be comfortable with your prayers
- Prayer helps us grow in our love for Him
- Be an example to others

Council members were asked to read Chapter 4 and come prepared to discuss and take notes at the April meeting.

Fr. Beckman also shared that bids for Sacred Heart’s repairs have been received and approved. Krause Construction, located in Wisconsin, has been selected. They will begin work at the start of summer, focusing on tuck pointing repairs (where needed).

Father updated us that the floor at Sacred Heart was scheduled to be stripped and recoated this week, but due to another emergency project, the work has been delayed. ServiceMaster will begin as soon as they are able.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Social Action:

Mary Jo Mertens attended and helped serve the End-of-Month meal in February. She shared that the volunteers are wonderful and the food was well received—one little girl even said, “This is the BEST goulash I’ve ever had!”

If you are interested in volunteering for the meals, please contact Tom and Kathy Wilkens or Joe and Chris Panther.

We were reminded that all Prison Ministries are postponed until further notice.

We were also informed of a new service to the community: Avenue O Laundry is donating washing services and soap to those in need. This has been well received, and our Altar and Rosary Society has become involved in this ministry.

Youth Ministry: Report submitted by Katie Englund Important Date: Family Movie Night on Saturday, April 28 at 5:45 PM. The Passion of the Christ will be shown. Altar and Rosary will serve soups and walking tacos.

Stewardship: No new updates at this time

Building and Grounds:

Thomas Older shared that he was approached about building a cabinet to house musical equipment near the piano. Fr. Beckman, Thomas, and Carleen Mayer will meet to determine needs and create something appropriate and presentable for the church.

Liturgy: Report submitted by Diane Powers

Faith Formation: Report submitted by Kelly Geise

Finance: Report submitted

It was also noted that the Diocesan Appeal is going very well.

Church Life/Family Life: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Fr. Beckman provided an update on security measures for our churches. Meetings are ongoing, and progress is being made regarding lighting, cameras, etc.

B. Fr. Beckman reported on his Deanery meeting from February 19. As previously noted, we are awaiting diocesan approval.

C. Tom shared that he will be meeting with Megan Rempe soon to continue plans for a parish directory. We have been in contact with a photographer, and planning is ongoing.

New Business:

A. Four to five names have been received for the parish "Call My Name" initiative. Please keep these young men and women in your daily prayers.

B. Ed Schroeder attended as a representative of the Knights of Columbus. He reported that the Potato Bar fundraiser held this month was a huge success. Plans are already underway for another one in the fall.

We are very thankful to the Knights of Columbus for their generous \$1,000 donation, which will go toward the new railing at the parish office. Their next fundraiser will be an enchilada sale - date to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Fr. Beckman.

*We were reminded that Holy Week begins this weekend. Please refer to the bulletin for Mass times and make every effort to attend.

The next meeting will be held on April 28 at 5:00 PM at McAleer Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Merschman

Secretary/Vice President