

Holy Family Parish Council Minutes

May 26, 2026

McAleer Hall

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Gregg
Fr Beckman started the meeting with the Diocesan Prayer.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Karen Robbins

Excused: Floyd Krogmeier, Megan Rempe

Ed Schroeder was present and representing our local Knights of Columbus.

Tom Gregg added that we would need to add a line to the agenda: item5.1 Book Discussion - becoming the Good News

A motion to approve the updated agenda was made by Diane Powers and seconded by Lorenzo Sanchez. Motion carried.

President Tom Gregg introduced guest parishioner Mike Panther. Mike was on the agenda to speak about the idea of purchasing hearing devices for our hearing impaired parishioners, and also, to discuss the installation of amplifiers for the churches BOSE speakers.

There was quite a bit of discussion on the topic, and many ideas were shared and brought forward to enhance the listening experience of our parishioners. Our council will continue to research and look into all possibilities.

Mr. Panther also made us aware of the purchase of the Audio-Visual system with a big screen that was going to be installed at Roling Hall. This addition to the hall was made possible by the generous donation by the Altar and Rosary Society.

Agenda Line 6 was for any guests that may be in attendance at our meeting. Deacon Bob Gingenbacher and Sister Val Natoli were both in attendance to express their worries in light of Mr. Dave Roggy's speeches to our church community. Both parties expressed their concerns with the possibility of armed security personnel being present inside the church. Tom and Father Beckman spoke up reminding them that all of this planning is preventative and our parish is being proactive. We will be looking at ALL options of security and to ensure our community is safe from the risks that can come about. This will be a continued topic and the parish will continue to be alerted to updates.

A motion to approve last month's minutes (which included a change to Diane Powers being "absent" not "present") was made by MaryJo Mertens and seconded by Lorenzo Sanchez.

Diane Powers abstained from the vote.

HTC Report: Report Submitted.

Pastoral Remarks:

Father Beckman expressed that his month of May has been busy and will continue to be as that month progresses. Lots of wonderful things happening within our parish and he thanks everyone for their time and talents.

*First Holy Communion was held on May 3, 2026

*Confirmation was held at St. James Church, in St. Paul.

- *Father thanked the K of C's for their Mother's Day breakfast. It was noted that it was well received and all in attendance felt appreciated and enjoyed their morning.
- *Father thanked Judy Pauley for the carnations that were given to all mothers at mass.
- *On May 20th, HTC held an all-school mass with Bishop Dennis in attendance. After the Mass, the students, faculty, clergy and guests went outside for the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the HTC Expansion Project.
- *Father continues to hold monthly masses at the local retirement communities.
- *Father wanted to thank David Roggy for attending the masses on the weekend of May 16th and May 17th and speaking to the parishioners on our security preparation.
- *There will be one more mass at the HTC schools on the last day of school, May 27th.
- *Father Beckman was in attendance and helped in handing out the diplomas to our HTC graduates on Sunday, May 24th, at Holy Trinity High School. CONGRATULATIONS to all graduates!! HTC is proud of you.
- *We will welcome two new babies to our parish this coming weekend - Father has a double baptism on Saturday, May 30th.
- *Prison Mass will be on May 27th.

Commission Reports:

Social Action: MaryJo reports that the End of the Month Meals continue to go well, and well received. Also, The Laundry Mat Ministry at Avenue O Laundry continues to see a lot of people. It's held on Wednesdays and the attendees do not pay for their laundry usage. There is soap, and money donated to all attendees for their wash and dry. If anyone would like to give to this very worth while cause, monies may be donated to our Altar and Rosary Society is spearheading this ministry.

Faith Formation: Report Submitted by Kelly Giese.

Youth Ministry: Report Submitted.

Stewardship: Lorenzo Sanchez passed out an updated "duties list" given to him by Kathy Nelson. We are still actively pursuing an individual to take over Kathy's Church Environment leadership role.

Church Life/Family Life: no report

Liturgy: Diane Powers reported that there were two new trainees for altar servers. They were trained on Saturday May 16th.

Building and Grounds: Tom Schultz is supposed to be coming to work on the air conditioning unit for Father's home. Mike Panther is coordinating all of that.

Finance: Report Submitted. It was noted that there has been a nice increase in our giving that is much appreciated. Also, parishioners are reminded to pay for their Catholic Messengers if they are receiving it in.

Old Business:

A. Emergency Plan Update: discussed earlier in the meeting

B. Update on Parish Picnic: Amy is taking care of the final details of the upcoming Parish Picnic. The picnic will be at the Fahey Shelter House, at Old Settlers Park, in Fort Madison. Mass will be held at 10:30. Picnic and entertainment to follow. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be provided. Alvin Holtkamp is graciously bringing his grill to the park and will assist us in the grilling. Mama J will be our music entertainment. The Altar and Rosary Society is assisting in supplying cups, napkins, paper plates, and lemonade for our picnic. We look forward to a fun morning of worship and fellowship.

C. Update on Disposition of Convent: The Emma Cornelius house has pulled out of using the convent. We are exploring other options for that building.

New Business:

A. Thomas Older and Tom Gregg both have expiring terms. Amy Merschman has been suggested to take over as the Parish Council President. We will discuss the replacement of Amy's positions of Vice President and Secretary at the next meeting.

B: Next Meeting Date: **June 23rd, at 5pm, McAleer Hall.**

Father's Remarks: Thankful for Mike Panther, Floyd Krogmeier, and Thomas Older for all they do to help around the parish. In light of Larry Sallen's passing, we have had some gentlemen step up to fill in his shoes. We are blessed to have them. Mike spoke up and reminded everyone to "Use our talents for good. Use your skills and share them. God gives us talents, and we should use them for the good of our parish." Tom thanked Mike for those great words of wisdom.

In closing, Ed Schroeder reminded us that there will be a KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Communal Breakfast, at Roling Hall, after the 8:30am mass, on Sunday, May 31st. The 4th Degree Honor Guard will be at the mass too.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Father Beckman.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Merschman
Secretary/Vice President