

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Council Notes

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026

Attendance: Arline Argentati, Erin Fontaine, Dan Schindler, Jim Stemann, Frank Vitale, Betsy Waldeck, Donna Weber
Staff: Bill Dirr, Deacon Mike Huffman, Fr. Dave Sunberg

Absent: Tim Vaughn, Joyce Thomas, Heather Wagner, Kathy Middendorf, Jennifer Klein, Melody Wallace

February minutes were approved as written.

Reports

- Sacred Heart School Report – report sent via email
- St. Ann School Report – report sent via email
- Old Business
 - Elections
 - There will be one new person elected. Dan will put something in the bulletin soon. The announcement will run for a couple weeks, then the candidates will be displayed in the bulletin for a couple of weeks.
 - Elections will take place the third weekend of May, per the Parish Council Constitution.
- New Business
 - Knights of Columbus Mother's Day collection (both churches)
 - Date requested: May 9-10 – not on calendar yet
 - Requesting to have a collection to benefit a local pregnancy center
 - Motion to grandfather the collection for the local pregnancy center. [REDACTED] made motion. [REDACTED] seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - NOTE: Grandfathered motions will only apply during the tenure of the *current* pastor in which the motions were made.
 - Knights of Columbus Charity Ticket Sale (both churches)
 - Date requested: April 18-19 and April 25-26 - is on calendar
 - Requesting to sell raffle tickets for the Super Cash Bonanza Annual Charity Campaign. The proceeds of the campaign support diocesan vocation programs, seminarians, religious education and evangelization, etc.
 - Motion to accept/allow the collection. [REDACTED] made motion. [REDACTED] seconded. **Motion passed to allow the group to sell one weekend. The K of C can select which weekend they prefer.**
 - Rosary Society raffle tickets (St. Ann only)
 - Dates requested: March 7-8 and March 14-15
 - Requesting to sell raffle tickets for baskets that will be raffled off at the St. Ann Fish Fry. The money will go towards the scholarships that the Rosary Society gives out.
 - Motion made via email to allow. [REDACTED] made motion. [REDACTED] seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - Baby bottles (St. Ann church and school)
 - The St. Ann Rosary Society would like to have a collection for the Pathway to Hope Pregnancy Center. This fundraiser will be in conjunction with St. Ann School. The bottles will be distributed the first week of May. Not collecting until June.
 - Motion made via email to allow. [REDACTED] made motion. [REDACTED] seconded. **Motion passed.**
 - Chili Fest Update
 - 10-12 crockpots can fit in Fellowship Hall. Those interested should contact J. Stemann. There will be an RSVP so the group can plan for drinks accordingly.
 - The event will be after Easter on a weeknight. D. Schindler will check the calendar to determine which date is best and begin advertising.
 - St. Ann business
 - St. Ann lock

- There was suggestion for a key card to be added to the door so there is a chance for the parishioners to access St. Ann when they would like.
- There is not currently a process to determine how many people visit St. Ann regularly.
- It is recognized by all that safety and security is the top priority to protect the church, its contents, and the people in it.
- New updates – boiler room is locked; the outside lock on the side door is deactivated
- PC members who have been approached about the locks should get ideas from the parishioners about potential solutions to propose. Ultimately, it is up to the pastor as the safety/security of the church is his responsibility.
- Regardless of any decision to reinstate a way for people to enter church after hours, we should consider adding security cameras. B. Dirr said he would look into this. It was also suggested that if we need to raise funds for this, to advertise a specific fundraiser for security measures.
- Process for getting communion after Mass for the sick and homebound. Is there an approval process?
 - Fr. Dave has to approve those who give communion to the sick. If parishioners would like to get communion to distribute to family members, they should contact Fr. Dave and stay after Mass to receive it.
- Sign at St. Ann on Pleasant Ave needs Saturday Mass time updated.
 - B. Dirr will look into getting the sign updated.
- Evening Masses for Holy Days
 - A St. Ann parishioner discussed if there could be a rotation for vigil Masses. It seems like there is already a rotation for Holy Day Masses. Fr. Dave is open to there being a rotation.
- Easter Vigil
 - The Easter Vigil is being held at Sacred Heart this year. It should have been on a rotation, which meant St. Ann would have held the Vigil this year. Fr. Dave agreed to a rotation moving forward. The rotation for 2026-2028 are outlined below.
 - Schedule – Thursday/Friday at one place; Easter Vigil at the other location
 - 2026 (this year) Schedule:
 - Holy Thursday/Good Friday – St. Ann
 - Easter Vigil (Saturday) – Sacred Heart
 - 2027 Schedule:
 - Holy Thursday/Good Friday – Sacred Heart
 - Easter Vigil (Saturday) – St. Ann
 - 2028 Schedule:
 - Holy Thursday/Good Friday – St. Ann
 - Easter Vigil (Saturday) – Sacred Heart

Director of Administration Update

- K. Middendorf was absent, but her report report was printed and shared during the meeting.
- Director of Evangelization update - The position is posted to the AoC website.

Director of Facilities Update

- B. Dirr met with the owner of Bengé Construction.
 - Motion to approve the contract for the Bengé Construction to build the new building for the cost of \$151,744.66. ██████ made motion. ██████ seconded.
 - Deacon Mike suggested doing an assessment for the return on investment (ROI) of the building before PC decides to approve the quote and begin the construction. Things to consider in a ROI assessment are things like cost of a square foot of the bldg. v. cost to rent a storage unit, etc.

- Deacon Mike volunteered to run the ROI calculation, with help from B. Dirr and others with knowledge of factors to consider.
- D. Schindler rescinded the motion to allow Deacon Mike, B. Dirr, and others perform the ROI assessment and to delay the vote until next month to gather more details. **Vote tabled until April.**

Pastor Updates

- Building and Grounds Committee is meeting on Saturday, March 7th.
- Beacons of Light
 - The AoC does not have documents for either parish in terms of documentation on our progress with the Beacons of Light program. Fr. Dave will work with K. Middendorf, and may reach out to Fr. Tharp, to see where any documentation may be housed that can be sent to the AoC to show our progress. If any PC members have documentation or information of value, please send to Fr. Dave.
- Associate Pastor
 - Fr. Dave was approached about getting an associate pastor. If this were to happen, the parish would incur another staff member salary, benefits, food, and allowances.
 - Ideally, this pastor would live at the St. Ann rectory. However, extensive work needs completed to make the rectory habitable. The Building and Grounds Committee should run an assessment of how much it would cost to have someone live there.
- It is important to bring issues to Parish Council meetings that have impact on the sustainability of the parish (e.g., building/facility topics, safety topics). Discussing topics like voting on what can/can't be sold in the back of church after Mass should not be a priority of PC meetings. That business can be conducted via email, unless there is a concern that requires discussion, to allow time at meetings for other items.

2026 Meeting Schedule - ALL MEETINGS ARE ON FIRST THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM

Next Meeting: April 9 at Sacred Heart

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 7	St. Ann	October 1	Sacred Heart
June 4	Sacred Heart	November 5	St. Ann
July/August	Summer Break	December 3	Sacred Heart
September 3	St. Ann		