

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2026

Attending Members: Fr. Erdman, David Buckley, Diane Butler, John Klapheke, Neil Gregory, Patrick Cornett, Jeremy Garris, John Wieland, Scott U'Sellis, Steve Frommeyer, & Alyssa Sohl

Attending Visitor: Patrick Parris

Minute-Taker: John Klapheke

Topic 1: Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (6:37PM)

- Meeting began at 6:36PM; Fr. Erdman opened with prayer
- Minutes from March parish council meeting were approved by members

Topic 2: Parish Planning Review (6:38PM)

- Dave began meeting with review of parish planning process draft plan from the Archdiocese.
- Fr. Erdman noted the next step for SFA is a participation in a meeting among Deanery 4 leadership – this will precede the school phase of planning process
 - Attendees to this will likely include: (1) Fr. Erdman, (2) head of parish council, and (3) head of finance council.
 - Meeting's objective will be formulating communication to Archdiocese to respond to the planning process thus far and to suggest adjustments that could be considered.
 - SFA can comment on the entirety of the plan including review of other deaneries' intended trajectories
- The original target of preparing for 20% fewer clergy in Deanery 4 seems not to be achieved in draft proposal. We can estimate when priests *may* retire, but we cannot determine whether they *will* retire. We must operate on the former as an assumption of retirement.
 - SFA parish council took that goal into account along with the following factors when drafting its own proposal: finances, attendance, location, construction costs, parish debt, and culture of the parishes.
 - Many parishes in the deanery, including SFA, suggested Francis, James, and Brigid could be combined in some manner.
- SFA parish council leadership will draft a response to the Archdiocese's draft plan, likely in early May.

Topic 3: Old Business Items (7:10PM)

- Stewardship planning

- Dave Buckley will coordinate with Finance Committee representative to draft time, talent & treasure stewardship letter and plan for discussion at Masses in coming weeks.
- SFA is considering staffing models to serve parish needs.
 - There will be a need for pastoral associate who can assist with scheduling, volunteer coordination, and administrative tasks.
 - We don't yet have a full need for director of religious education on Sunday mornings.
- Parish strategic planning: postponed discussion until May meeting.
 - Parish strategic planning should wait for finalized Archdiocesan parish plan, but some preparation can begin.
 - Coordination will need to take place with school's strategic planning process.
- Topics for future meetings:
 - Super-centennial celebration (May).
 - Finance Committee/Budget presentation (June).
- Other Parish/School Updates
 - Panic push-bars have been installed in Church
 - Sacristy bathroom has been updated; new toilet installed
 - Wi-Fi access has been updated for better bandwidth along with landscaping done around grounds
 - Church A/C estimate is ongoing
 - Super-centennial: Alumni Dinner at 6:30PM on June 5 in parish hall; the objective is to celebrate alumni, acknowledge heritage, & fundraise. Jim Beatty is spearheading efforts.
 - Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's 800th anniversary presents opportunity for parish events: retreats, plenary indulgence, & study of St. Francis of Assisi's writings
 - SFA is the only Archdiocesan school applying for the new national Catholic school recognition that has replaced the Blue Ribbon award program.

7:36PM: Meeting adjourned & concluded with prayer; end of minutes