

Meeting Minutes
Church of the Madalene Parish Council Meeting
March 24, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Shaded area represents “present”, non-shaded represents “absent”

Present	Name	Position
	Father Desmond Okpogba	Pastor
	Dcn Nelson Sousa	Deacon
	Dcn Kevin Stephenson	Deacon
	Paul Steiner	Facilities
	Kent Garrett	Finance Council
	Pat Howerton	Hospitality / Women of the Madalene
	Greg Moore	Knights of Columbus
	Mark Ballew	Member-at-Large – 7/2027
	Anne Edwards	Member-at-Large – 7/2026 – Safety Committee
	Ken Fike	Member-at-Larger – 7/2027
	Mary Whelan	Member-at-Large – 7/2028
	Robert Grant	Council Chair – 7/2028 / Member-at-Large
	Chris King	Member-at-Large – OCIA Director –Vice Chair 7/2028
	Steve Slusher	Member-at-Large – 7/2027
	Khadija Goz	Music Ministry
	Liz Poulter	Parish Life / Communications
	Trina Moore	Rec. Secretary/Member-at-Large – 7/2027
	Pat Seibert	Social Concerns
	Rachel Boeckman	Social Concerns
	Pat Burns	Member-at-Large – 7/2028
	Ian Riley	Youth

The meeting was called to order by Father Desmond who led us in prayer and PIE at 6:30 p.m. There were nine attendees.

Meeting minutes for February were reviewed, motioned, and seconded for approval.

Old Business:

Police security attended Sunday Mass last weekend from 7:30am until 11:30am. We need to ask why he was not there on Saturday, or if he plans on attending on Saturday Mass as well. Only one parishioner mentioned he didn’t like change (not that he didn’t like the police presence there, just that he didn’t like change). Father mentioned to this person that the police presence was due to vandalism. Overall having the police presence there was well received. Parishioners at 10:00 applauded. Sgt Bobby will be here for a year and will be evaluated in 6 months. Perhaps we should ask him to attend Easter Vigil, and other Easter services.

New Business:

Father's Report:

Father gave the Financial report. The loss of Facility rental was due to OLIE who found another place to rent because they wouldn't sign an agreement with us. Joe Creider or June should attend our meeting on June 19th or once a quarter to be present to explain any financial questions that arise, such as Line 50262 (Custodial expense) vs 50019 (Janitorial salaries): what's the difference?

Father is not happy with the attendance at Lenten activities. Perhaps we should have the Stations of the Cross first and then the Lenten dinner (Holy Hour, Stations, then Dinner). However, the CRUX sessions have been well attended.

New Question: Pat Burns asked if the altar cloth could match the Priest's and Deacons' vestments with the trim? What kind of cloth would that be? Special Order from Ziegler's or similar. Pat will lead the committee on this and report back at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee (Anne Edwards): No report

Strategic Planning Committee: Robert reported that the committee is focused on fellowship, membership and community. CRUX will end this Sunday. Training is coming soon for the greeters. We've set a goal to increase our numbers by 150-225 more people attending (a percentage of the average attendance). There's also a push for new Eucharistic ministers to be trained.

Saint Monica is implementing a new program for the aging-out parishioners. Their priest will begin by asking 6 parishioners to come to dinner and bring a fallen away parishioner or Catholic person or person who doesn't have a church to meet in the rectory.

Father Desmond mentioned that 100 people have passed away from our parish alone since he arrived here in 2018.

Kitchen Committee: No report

Hospitality Committee (Pat Howerton): We had a planning meeting for Trivia Night, to happen on 4/25 after Mass. It will be an Italian night, \$20 per person or \$150/table. Anne's son will facilitate the games. Also, the new people in the church coming in at Easter will get a Welcome bag at their reception after Easter Vigil.

Finance Council: Father handed out the Financial report (mentioned in his report above)

Religious Education: No report

OCIA (Chris King): No report

Parish Life: No report

Music: No report

Youth: No report

Social Concerns Committee (Rachel Boeckman): No report

Knights of Columbus (Greg Moore): There will be a pancake breakfast coming soon. We are sponsoring the last Lenten Dinner of the season, and it will be a Fish Fry (Fish, beans and coleslaw).

Women of the Madalene (Pat Howerton): the Spring Luncheon will be at the Belvedere Mansion in Claremore. We will switch off each year between catering here and offsite. At the Lenten dinner we reorganized the storeroom. Father expressed his gratitude to the WOM for sponsoring a Lenten dinner.

Facilities: No report

Additional Business: No report

Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Father Desmond with a closing prayer at 7:53 pm.