

Holy Family of the Bluffs Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Wexford.

Roll Call

Present: Father Joseph, Allison Benzing, Laurie Rethwisch, Pete Mauss, Dan Conway, Amy McCormick, Peggy Berns (secretary)

Rosary Society/Parish Life Reps: Teri Collins, Patty Manning, and Joan Hennessy

Absent: Brandon O'Neill, Deb Stantic, Jack Heffern, and Pat Zoll

Guest(s): Dan Colsch and Laure Manning

Prayer

Meeting opened with a prayer by Father.

Meeting Minutes

- October 9th meeting minutes approved by consensus.

Pastoral Council Discussion

- Reviewed faith formation update (see 2-page information from Kristi Hager)
- Evangelical Catholic – session starting in January 2026
- Reviewed financial report and account balances. D & L accounts at Dubuque earn 3% interest.
 - July 2025 starting account balance \$50,000.
 - Year-to-date expenses have been paid out of HFOB general checking account.
 - Rosary Society TAXA is calculated on net increase (TAXA paid out of HFOB general fund)
- October Count – between 2024 to 2025 parishes had more funerals than baptisms, however our mass attendance has increased.
 - 2025 – 398 (8% increase from 2024 to 2025)
 - 2024 – 366
 - 2023 – 383
 - 2022 – 371
- Journey in Faith Meeting #3 – See handouts. Key factors:
 - Spring – new parishes will be assigned July 1, 2026. Will create a provisional mass schedule for 6 months.
 - Parishes merger to begin July 1, 2027.
 - Every parish will have a “mother” church on website.
 - Lycurgus – no baptisms, but can have weddings; have 2 special masses vs. New Albin – can have baptisms, weddings, funerals & daily masses.
 - Proposal to have mass on feast days, Christmas and Easter at all other churches plus mass for festival weekend. But will await Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Christmas Mass Schedule

- St. Pius – Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:00 pm
- St. Patrick Waukon, St. Mary’s Dorchester & St. Ann – St. Joseph Harpers Ferry – Wednesday, December 23rd at 4:00 pm
- I.C. Lansing & St. Patrick Waukon – Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:00 pm
- St. Mary’s Hanover – Wednesday, December 23rd at 8:00 pm
- St. Joseph New Albin – Thursday, December 25th at 8:00 am
- St. Patrick Waukon, and I.C. Wexford – Thursday, December 25th at 9:00 am
- Switchback will be at St. Joseph Church New Albin January 1st at 9:00 am mass.

Parish Life/Rosary Society Report(s)

- Lansing – Served 200 people at Hog Roast, basket raffle generated \$900; coffee & donuts after December 7th mass; December 8th soup/sandwich meal.
- Harpers Ferry – Trunk-N-Treat was successful, 130 served at funeral, brunch this coming weekend, blinds in hall to be finished this week, will be hosting soup supper early February.
- New Albin – will be helping with Thanksgiving meal, December 6th holiday cookie fundraiser.
- Wexford – bingo @ Thorton Manor, fish fry was successful, complete spring cleaning as a group, 175th celebration, Feast Day celebration w/bingo, breakfast.

New Business

- None

Old Business

- None

Closed in Prayer by Allison at 7:31 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 15th at 6:30 pm in Lansing