

**Holy Family of the Bluffs Parish**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 12, 2026**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at St. Ann-St. Joseph Church, Harpers Ferry

**Roll Call**

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

Rosary Society/Parish Life Reps: Joan Hennessy, Patty Manning, and Gail Whalen

Absent: Brandon O’Neill, Teri Collins and Jack Heffern

Guest(s): Dan Colsch and Laure Manning

**Prayer**

Meeting opened with a prayer by Father.

**Meeting Minutes**

- January 15th meeting minutes approved by consensus.

**Parish Life/Rosary Society Report(s)**

- Harpers Ferry – Soup Supper after 4 p.m. mass.
- Lansing – March coffee & donuts 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. April will be 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend. Feast of St. George after 5 p.m. mass; Parish life is sponsoring Bounce into Spring. They will work with Kristi for our sponsor table information.
- Wexford – Spring cleaning March 15<sup>th</sup>. Designing t-shirts & gathering “Wexford” stories – planning June celebration with catered meal for 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- New Albin – Hot breakfast this week & March 15<sup>th</sup>. March 19<sup>th</sup> feast of St. Joseph with 8:30 a.m. mass with breakfast at High Chap following.

**Pastoral Council Discussion**

- Journey in Faith – See February Agenda
- Priest Assignments – Father indicated that at least 50% of priests will likely have new assignments.
- There will be 4 ordinations & 4 priests able to retire this year.
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – new pastorates released, number of masses & priest assignments
- Sometime in July – new weekend mass schedules take effect.
  - Special meeting or next council meeting – talk about future mass times
- Leadership Structure
  - Priest will appoint or hire between September 2026 & January 2027
    - Director of Evangelization (faith formation, evangelization, outreach)
    - Director of Operations (handle finance, contracts & human resources)
  - Father has sent out 8 questions to current staff & plans to meet with employees one on one.
  - Secretaries are working together at this time.

- Archdiocese Pastoral Center is being re-aligned
  - 8 core team leaders; there will be 1 for our pastorate
- Finances – See agenda
  - Pastorate Budget – What are shared or individual expenses
  - Interim shared expenses until merger in July 2027 or later
- Ministry Schedule
  - Mass schedules & times
  - Liturgical ministries – find out where they want to attend mass
  - Music
  - Weekday mass schedule & sites – all churches have weekday mass
  - Nursing home rotation – to discuss
  - Ministry of the sick – can be organized thru the office

### **New Business**

- Think about social schedule after masses.
  - Special occasion calendar - feast days, celebrations, anniversaries, etc.
  - Adoration before weekend mass – a possibility
  - Adult Faith Formation after mass
    - What would it look like & how can we more fully grow?

### **Old Business**

- HF furnace delivered but not installed
- New organ in Lansing will be investigated sometime within next year

**Closed in Prayer** by Amy at 7:19 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in New Albin