

Minutes: St. Mary Parish Council Mtg, Feb 23, 2026; 6:30pm; Parish Center; **(subject to approval next mtg)**

1. Opening Prayer was said
2. Roll Call: Present: Fr. Paul, Beth Sadewasser, Lois Bries, Adam Scherbring, Larry Wille (arrived at 6:38), Jessie Young, Erin Schmelzer, Lisa Kies Absent: Gerald Bormann, Wendy Shea, Jim Schlueter
3. Approve Agenda: Motion by Jessie/2nd by Lois to approve the agenda; all in favor; motion carried
4. Approve Minutes previous mtg: Motion by Adam/2nd by Lois to approve minutes; all in favor; motion carried.
5. Communications/Guests – none
6. Executive report – Fr. Paul reported one task from the JIF prep series is that Mass counts be taken at every Mass and he stressed the importance of this information which will influence the interim Mass schedule that starts in July. He indicated we need to announce this at Mass and in the bulletin. Father also reported there will be a Leadership Day in Waterloo on April 16th for priests, deacons and staff; cost is \$20/person.
7. Liturgy report—Wendy was not able to attend but did indicate prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report. Beth asked who prepares the Prayers of the Faithful for the youth Masses, and Erin shared that Gail or Katey typically write them. The group agreed that more communication between the liturgy committee and Faith Formation would help avoid duplicated efforts.
8. Stewardship report – nothing to report
9. Parish Life report –Lois reported the group provided pizza for the Youth Ministry on Feb 11; this past coffee and donuts was very well attended; provided grief books to those who recently lost spouses.
10. Social Concerns report –Gerald was not present but submitted a report which Lisa read: Delivered bibles and Matthew Kelly books to the jail; collecting Easter Egg Coloring kits which the Resource Center will distribute; request to please keep Fr. Paul Bormann, Gerald's brother and a former priest in the Sioux City diocese in your prayers as he deals with incurable liver cancer at the age of 67.
11. Faith Formation report – Erin asked if the date of 1st Reconciliation for the 2nd graders could be changed to March 11th. Father approved that change.
12. Finance Committee report – Lisa updated the council on the rectory furnace problems; rectory roof waiting of favorable weather; received the 2026/2027 priest compensation packet which will be used for upcoming budget; Beth asked about the Building Report Card and stressed the importance for planning and budgeting. Lisa reported it is on the agenda for next month's finance meeting.
13. Old Business
 - a. Rectory Roof – waiting on favorable weather;
 - b. Sale of Convent to Friends of St. Mary's is now completed; Beth reported that FOSM hopes to have the 2nd floor apartment ready to go by June. Council requested a tour when renovations are completed.
 - c. 175th celebration
 - ii) Directory – Jessie reported: will take group pictures on March 22; obtained a 30 trial of Instant Church Directory—hoping parishioners can submit their own pics and update info; more to come as the team digs into it.
 - iii) Set Date for the Celebration:
 - (1) Decided on July 19th for the celebration with a potluck picnic after Mass. Father suggested having daily events in the week leading up to the climax on the 19th. Ideas for the daily events were: candle process; outdoor rosary using the living rosary made/donated by the KCs; Adoration; Bingo; Church Trivia night or Jeopardy; Souvenirs (ornaments, magnets, water bottle stickers, etc).
14. New Business
 - a) Scheduling of Gift Bearers – will start scheduling gift bearers for weekend Masses in April. We will have groups like KCs, CDA, Men's MASS group, etc do some of the weekends. Beth to put together the schedule for the groups and Erin to put together something like the Mass server signup for faith formation families to sign up. The schedule will be week 1, family; week 2 group, week 3 family and week 4 open weekend for anybody to sign up.
 - b) Larry raised concerns that we are not following canon law regarding the responsibilities of the council.
15. Closing Prayer was said
16. Next meeting, March 23, 6:30pm
17. Motion to adjourn made by Jessie/2nd Adam; all in favor; motion carried; adjourned 8:10pm.