

St. Mary Catholic Church
Pastoral Council Minutes
July 17, 2025

Mary Bailey chaired the meeting.

The meeting was called to order around 6pm in the CCC. Members present were Mary Bailey, Mary Luedke, Mike Orlowski, Jayne Boebel, Kari Selhofner, Jeff Walker and Fr. Aloysius. Members absent: Pete Pintens, Deacon Dave and Doug Duchac. Others present: Jan Huseby, Laura Reiter and Sandy Bishop.

Fr. Aloysius began the meeting with a prayer.

The Parish mission statement was read.

Mary B. invited comments on the last minutes (June 5, 2025). There were no comments. Mike O. motioned to approve the minutes. Mary L. seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

The council elected the following officers: Mary Bailey as Chair, Mary Luedke as Vice-Chair and Jeff Walker as Secretary.

Staff Reports:

- Jan Huseby (Director of Music and Liturgy):
 - Diocesan Music Ministry Conference will be September 26-27 in Amery with Fr. Jim Marchionda, and focused on the role of pastoral musicians in supporting and bringing to life the Gospel.
 - Rehearsals for the annual Advent concert will start on September 2nd.
 - Choir schedules are posted on the website.
 - An organ technician will be coming July 14th for maintenance, cleaning and repair of the organ. Repair services are becoming hard to find and expensive.
 - Maintenance/repair is underway on the sound system (an ongoing necessity). Wireless microphones may need replacement.
 - Planning meetings for the next Woman's Spring Tea have started.

- Juanita Skubal (St. Mary's Catholic School Principle):
 - Eighty five students are registered for 2025/26
 - The school is sponsoring Ski Show Night on August 2nd.
 - Back to School Night August 25, 3-6pm.
 - First Day of School September 2.
- Laura Reiter (Finance/Business Manager)
 - The Parish fiscal year ended 6/30/25. The parish is showing an estimated loss of \$318 for the year. This may change in the next month if other expenses arise or if the auditors make adjustments. This is much better than the budgeted loss for this year of \$92,650. One reason for the better financial outcome is that the church was short on staff (DRE).
 - Covid funds are not restricted.

Small Groups

- Parish Evangelization Team, staff, council members and other cluster representatives participated in a Diocesan workshop with Chris Newkirk (Director of the Office of Parish Transformation) on July 17. Chris reviewed the new Council By-Laws with emphasis on new provisions for joint cluster council meetings. Chris reviewed the new Pillar 4 checklist with emphasis on how to approach change through open communication and dialogue. She did a talk/walk through of the Diocese Approaches for Realizing Positive Change and Transformation and the 6D Model for Appreciative Inquiry.
- The Welcome Home Team is completing arrangements for sponsoring a tour of St. Mary Church during the summer festival. An updated book on the history and symbols of the church is being prepared.
- Dick Huseby book sharing. The next session will be August 11th.
- The Prayer Group Ministry has moved to the second Thursday of the month at 6pm. Three participants attended the last session. Chris C. has requested to include music at the beginning and end of the hour. Fr. Aloysius has suggested that the prayer book of intentions located in the Prayer Shrine be used as a basis for prayers. It has also been suggested that we invite the parish to participate in a 6pm prayer at home if they are unable to attend the ministry meeting at the church.

- Jubilee year pilgrimage: Date has been set for September 8th with a participating cost of \$30 per person. Details to be included in the bulletin. Mary L. may give an overview of the pilgrimage at future Mass's and/or to the Council.
- Adult Faith formation continues to draw six-eight participants.

Old Business

- Discussed council representation at the summer festival. Jayne B. and Jeff W. offered to monitor suggestion boxes located at the salad buffet area and at the entrance of the church during the tour periods. Jeff W. also suggested council members have tags to identify them; Laura noted she had some of these already.
- Jayne B. confirmed that the Music on the River committee would welcome St. Mary sponsoring a food giveaway.
- There was no follow-up discussion from the June 5 council meeting on having council meeting agendas and staff reports put on the back table in the church.

New Business

- Laura R. confirmed that she will be a part time coordinator of youth religious education and that a new part-time Financial Assistant position has been filled.

Other Business

- Mike O. offered some comments/observations about the school, particularly about the number of students and scope of expansion for technology/math skills. There was some conversation among the council. Subsequent to the council meeting, the school has put out a parish wide survey and has announced an open meeting with the parish community on July 31 to discuss the proposed expansion.
- Bringing bells back to the Mass. This subject was raised over a year ago in the suggestion box at the last summer festival. There were many views on this topic ranging from this is how it used to be, children may respond positively, it is no longer necessary or required following changes to the Mass by Vatican II, it would be distracting and that parishioners including children are well catechized and are already attentive to the Mass without bells. Council members are asked to give prayerful consideration to this topic for discussion at the next meeting.

Mary L. led the closing prayer.
The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025.