

St. Mary Catholic Church
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 16, 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, Pete Pintens, Kari Selhofner, Jeff Walker and Fr. Aloysius. Members absent: Jayne Boebel, Deacon Dave and Doug Duchac. No staff were present.

Fr. Aloysius began the meeting with a prayer.

The Parish mission statement was read.

Mary B. invited comments on the last minutes (September 18). There were no comments. Mary B. motioned to approve the minutes. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Staff Reports: Distributed, but not reviewed or discussed.

Small Groups

- Parish Transformation Team: Fr. Aloysius gave an update of the teams last meeting with additional information from a Diocesan meeting regarding the timeframe for developing measurable goals. Fr. Aloysius also noted the deficit budget that the church is operating under, but with savings from COVID funds, other grants and staff savings.
- The Welcome Home Team: The team is working on three initiatives. Updating the Parish Guidebook. Developing a strategy to promote greeters. Planning a Teaching Mass.
- Dick Huseby book sharing. The next session will be November 10. Good conversation and community gathering.
- The Prayer Group Ministry: Several council members expressed intent to attend future meetings.

Dave adult server training update: No action. Pete P. and Mike O. are interested. Mary B. has approached several other men who have expressed interest. Fr. Aloysius asked if establishing an advance schedule for altar servers was necessary; altar servers could

communicate with themselves to alternate and/or fill in during absences. Pete and Mike expressed that they did not want to fill in at the expense of young people. Pete and Mike will discuss with Deacon Dave when he returns.

Church Security update: Fr. Aloysius gave an overview of some of the recommendations. Closing and locking doors during the Wednesday Mass with the school children. Closing front doors during other Masses. Taking down tree in the garden. Planting thorn bushes by windows to discourage access. Informing parishioners how evacuated in an emergency that may not necessarily follow the exit plan color code in the pews. Either Jan or Tracy will be working on flyers for the parish.

Feast Day for Mary: The Council will revisit the specific date at the next meeting.

New Business: Council approved moving forward with proposal to replace the projector/screen with a large portable smart TV, provided it will be compatible with the existing Church sound system. Jeff W. will work on a specific recommendation.

Other Business:

Drew Voerman's Eagle Scout project to build a play house on the school play area. Suggested that Pete P. might be able to provide encouragement and direction with his construction experience to help Drew move forward. Mary B. will talk with the family.

Fr. Aloysius asked how St. Mary's could get pictures from the pilgrimage into the Catholic Herald. He will send a picture to Laura. There is interest in expanding the Church outreach (public relations) through various venues (Tomahawk Facebook page, Catholic Herald, St. Mary Facebook, etc).

Fr. Aloysius noted his experience at another church, that before the procession, the cantor would invite the parishioners to take a moment and greet and introduce each other as a good way to build community. He asked if the council thought this was a good idea. All agreed.

Jeff W. led the closing prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025.
Kari S. will lead the opening prayer.