

St. Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Harold Anderson, Christine Blackwood, Alan Close, Nadine Flemming, Art Hokanson, Sandy Kramschuster, Kathy Monacelli, Mary Newell, Camille Nicolai, Mary Sue Taft

Not Present: Maggie Ensing and Mike Wusterbath

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Chris Blackwood

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of February 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes** – the minutes were approved with the following change under #3, first bullet was changed to read, “Regular attendance is challenging in Faith Formation classes.” Art Hokanson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mary Newell. None opposed.
3. **Guest Presenter** – Francis Zelinka, Director of Music and Liturgy
 - Praise and Worship Adoration – Francis advised the committee that he was pleased with the attendance at the February 11, 2026, Abide with Me Adoration Evening. Francis also stated that he would like to see the Adoration evenings taking place three to four times annually to possibly include witness talks and confession.
 - Francis shared with the committee that the choir is going well. He said membership does fluctuate; however, he is grateful for the choir members who attend all the time. He is looking to grow the choir members. Francis also acknowledged that learning music can be overwhelming.
 - The Children’s choir will sing at Mass on Sunday, March 8th and will sing on Easter. Most of the members of the Children’s choir are St. Alphonsus students.
 - Francis advised the committee that the speakers in sections four and five in the church are not aimed correctly and it could be hard to hear well in those sections.
 - Francis shared with the committee that he has the following goals as the Director of Music and Liturgy: Grow in numbers the choir members and cantors, Grow the Adoration evenings, hold a spring musical event of some type, and maintain the St. Alphonsus student choir members after they graduate.
4. **February Committee Updates**

School

- The comment was made by both Pastoral Council School Committee liaisons that the school is in good hands with Amy Schermetzler while Megan Sagat, school principal, is on maternity leave.

- Megan shared an outline of the five-year technology plan. The majority of this plan will be paid for by the proceeds from the 2025 Fun Run. The plan focuses on hardware at a 1-1 ratio of individual computers to students and teachers; enhancing teachers' computer skills for instruction of students; utilizing electronics to communicate and involve parents with their children's education and teaching students how to safely use the internet.
- The School Committee reviewed enrollment numbers for the 2026-2027 school year. It is very early in the enrollment process; however, it should be noted that we have five current families re-enrolling utilizing School Choice with five-six more current families anticipated in the next enrollment period for School Choice. There are also eight new students enrolled in 3K and 4K.

Christian Formation

- No Report

Liturgy

- Holy Week Planning will be the focus for the next meeting.

Human Concerns

- The care for Creation Spring Clean-Up at Scout Lake Park has been changed from Saturday, April 18th to Saturday, April 25th. The Care for Creation Team realized that April 18th is the date of Youth Confirmation.

Hands and Hearts

- The committee reviewed the plans for the March 11th Senior Social – “Lucky Day” Bingo Event. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled as of March 5th due to lack of people registering for the event. The committee will explore other dates to hold the event.
- Homebound Outreach – the committee received two more parishioners to contact and add to the list of Homebound parishioners. The committee members are planning to deliver prayer shawls and plants to the Homebound parishioners at Easter.
- Parishioner Survey – a survey was made available to parishioners to see what type of activities they would be interested in participating in. Responses are coming in and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Budget Request – a proposed budget was sent to the Finance Council for their review for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- Greendale Downtown Market -the committee will sign up for three weekends to have a booth at the Greendale Downtown Market. Discussion was held on

creating a banner to hang behind the table so it can be easily seen when we are talking with visitors at the booth.

- New parishioners – seven new parishioners joined the parish in January. They have received welcome phone calls.

Finance

- February is “Budget Month” for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
 - Department Budget requests were presented to the Finance Council. The Finance Council has a good understanding of the needs of the departments.
 - The cost of health insurance is a challenge. The rates have skyrocketed not just at St. Alphonsus, but nationally as well.
5. The budget must be completed by early April and submitted as part of our School Choice filing by May 1st and to the Archdiocese by June 1st.

6. Pastor’s Report

- Dominican Republic Mission Trip – the group who traveled on the Mission Trip is praying on things and discerning at this time on how we might best be of assistance to the people of La Sagrada Familia. Father Kevin advised the Pastoral Council that some of the events he and the other team members participated in were baptizing children, preaching a Sunday Homily in Spanish, and visiting a prison where they said Stations of the Cross. The challenge is the climate. It is very hot with many mosquitoes. The location is in an underdeveloped part of the country. Father Javier advised the team that they can tailor service projects to the helpers’ expertise.
- Father Kevin advised the Pastoral Council members that the focus for the next few weeks will be the “Scrutinies,” anointing of the sick, confession for the school children, and added confession times in preparation for Easter.
- Old Palms – you can burn or bury the old palms.
- Building and Grounds Committee – added new members.
- School office – an Executive Administrative Assistant was hired.
- FEMA Grant Proxy – Art Hokanson motioned and seconded by Kathy Monacelli, none opposed, to spend FEMA funds on re-keying classroom doors, external doors, hallway, restrooms, locker rooms, and the gym. Two quotes were received for the project. Quality Door will do the work for the cost of \$52,783.25.

7. Other Discussion and Information Items

- Reminder – the next Pastoral Council meeting was moved to Thursday, April 16, 2026.
- Council Member term expirations, ad hoc committee volunteers, and election preparation – the available Pastoral Council positions will be listed in the bulletin. PC members are encouraged to invite others to consider being a Pastoral Council candidate. Sister Eileen will meet with a small ad hoc group of PC

members between April 16th and the end of April regarding the new candidate process. The May PC meeting will include discernment and voting on new Pastoral Council candidates. The June meeting will include PC officer discernment.

8. Closing Prayer – Father Kevin

- Art Hokanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Sandy Kramschuster. None opposed, the motion passed; the meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Camille Nicolai