

## St. Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Present: Fr. Kevin McManaman, Harold Anderson, Christine Blackwood, Alan Close, Maggie Ensing, Nadine Flemming, Sandy Kramschuster, Kathy Monacelli, Mary Newell, Camille Nicolai, Mary Sue Taft, and Mike Wusterbarth

Not Present: Art Hokanson

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

1. **Opening Prayer** – Fr. Kevin
2. **Approval of January 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes** – Mary Newell motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathy Monacelli. None opposed, the motion passed.
3. **Guest Presenters** – Karen Farrell, Director of Youth and Young Adults and Rachel Kroes, Associate Director of Child Ministry.  
Karen and Rachel advised the Pastoral Council on the following topics:
  - Regular attendance is challenging in Faith Formation classes.
  - The Faith Formation calendar for next year is currently being worked on.
  - The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is in the process of being implemented for children ages three to five years old. It will take approximately two years to get the program running. St. Alphonsus will apply for a grant to help with the costs of launching this program. The goal is to begin the program in the 2027-2028 school year. The training for the catechists of this program is ninety hours. There will be a dedicated space for this program on the fourth floor in the school building.
  - Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Alphonsus this summer July 13-18, 2026. The Sunday Visitor program will be used. Volunteers will be needed to assist at the Vacation Bible School. Adults, high school, and middle school students will be welcome to help. There will also be an Amazon Wish List available to help keep the cost of the program low for the first year. There will be Vacation Bible School information posted in the March 15<sup>th</sup> Bulletin.
  - Children's Liturgy of the Word is anticipated to be brought back with in the next few years.
  - Discussion was held on how to keep young people engaged in faith formation after they are Confirmed.
  - Karen advised the Pastoral Council that a Discipleship Program started last year and is continuing this year with Ananias training. Apprenticing people is what discipleship is about.

- There is one young person from St. Alphonsus who will participate in the Mission Trip this summer. The Mission Trip is a combined effort with other churches.

#### **4. January Committee Updates**

##### **School**

- No Report

##### **Christian Formation**

- No Report

##### **Liturgy**

- Ash Wednesday Masses will be at 8am, noon, and 6:30pm.

##### **Human Concerns**

- The Life Fair was successful after each Mass. The Life Fair leaders returned for the Christian Formation older students on Sunday evening.
- Spring Clean-Up Program by the Care for Creation Team Members will take place on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Scout Lake County Park. St. Alphonsus members, families, and friends are encouraged to participate. Information is available through the parish bulletin, website, and fliers. Please contact Lee Herriges, Chair of Care for Creation or Greg High, Care for Creation Member.
- The Mother's Day Rose Sale is on hold for this year. Consideration of the decision was a lack of refrigeration space to store the roses overnight.
- The other ministries such as the Food Pantry, Community Meal Programs, Dementia Support Group are all going well.

##### **Hands and Hearts**

- Senior Social - The committee discussed plans for the March 11<sup>th</sup> Senior social/bingo gathering. Doors will open for "breakfast/social" at 9:00am with bingo beginning at 9:30am. There will be a sign-up for the event to help determine supplies needed, however, walk-ins are welcome. Bulletin and pulpit announcements will be made.
- Homebound Outreach – Homebound parishioners are given an initial phone call and the committee agreed that a one-year follow-up call would be nice. The committee plans to provide prayer shawls and spring plants to their assigned people with an in-person drop off.
- Discussion was held regarding bringing homebound parishioners communion. Sr. Eileen coordinates the volunteers for this effort; therefore, she would be the contact.

- Budget Request discussion – The Committee will be sending a request to the finance committee for inclusion in next year’s budget. This will include costs for our social activities as well as supplies for name tag Sunday and flowers/cards for the homebound program. The committee also discussed the possibility of charging a small fee to participate in some of the activities since currently committee members are paying out of their pocket for supplies/food.
- New Parish Members – five new families joined the Parish in December; welcome calls were made.

### **Finance Committee**

- By-laws were created for the Raise Right (Script) gift card program.
- The QR code outreach donations might be out of date at this point.
- The Budgeting Process for the 2026-27 year has started.

### **5. Pastor’s Report**

- Abide With Me Adoration – seventy people attended. We might hold this quarterly.
- Lent – Ash Wednesday should include prayer, fasting, and alms giving.
- OCIA – The Dismissal Rite will take place at Mass on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are two catechumens who will attend the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Sunday, February 22, 2026.
- We are looking to install the same “Hearing Assistance” in church as we have in the Community Room. People who have their hearing aids connected to their phone will be able to use this “Hearing Assistance.”
- Father Kevin and a core group from the Friendship Without Borders team (Elizabeth Hansen, Ken Kieck, and Gerry Ruedinger) will travel to the Dominican Republic February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup> to determine if teams from St. Alphonsus can travel there for mission work.
- There will be two funerals at St. Alphonsus the week of February 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. Other Discussion and Information Items**

- **Love One Another School Flooring Project** – A motion was made by Kathy Monacelli and seconded by Camille Nicolai to move the total cost of this project, \$73,000 from our Love One Another bank account into a restricted account in the parish accounts for use on this project. None opposed, the motion was passed.
- **April Pastoral Council Meeting Date** – the Pastoral Council members agreed to move the April meeting to Thursday, April 16, 2026, from Thursday, April 9, 2026.

### **7. Closing Prayer – Fr. Kevin**

- Mary Newell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Maggie Ensing. None opposed, the motion passed; the meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by Camille Nicolai