

St. Alphonsus Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026

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

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

- 1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Kevin**
- 2. Approval of March 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes** – Nadine Flemming motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Maggie Ensing. None opposed, the motion passed.
- 3. Guest Presenter** – No guest presenter was scheduled.
- 4. March Committee Updates**

School

- The comment was made that Amy Schermetzler is multi-tasking and doing really well at it.
- Eighteen families (twenty-eight students) have not responded to re-enrollment.
- Three students confirmed they are not returning.
- Six current students have been accepted into the School Choice Program.
- 4K enrollment is looking good.
- We are not budgeting at this time for a second 3K classroom.

Christian Formation

Youth and Young Adult

- Bishop Haines will confirm fifty-one teens at St. Alphonsus on Saturday, April 18th. One teen is from another parish. There will be one teen from St. Alphonsus confirmed the following week at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton due to family arrangements.
- We have created a “Transformation Team” to help with two aspects of youth in our parish: How to help teens to become disciples and how to better engage the youth in the life of the parish. This team’s work will be an ongoing effort for the next eighteen months. The first task for the team will be developing questions for a survey for teens, parents, and parishioners at large.

Children’s Ministry

- We are beginning the process of starting the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) training to begin a more Montessori style of catechesis for three-year-olds

to six-year-olds. Rachel will be attending the training. We are looking for more adults to help us with the CGS endeavor.

- We are hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the first time ever this year. We have eighteen children signed up and we are looking for volunteers to help with VBS. The dates of VBS are July 13-17, 2026.
- There will be thirty-two children receiving their First Communion on the weekend of May 2nd and May 3rd at all Masses, except the 7:30am Mass.

Liturgy

- The committee met in March to plan for Holy Week.

Human Concerns

- The committee is considering setting a date for a Ministry Fair next year. Parish volunteers who do “works of charity” are requesting it.
- The Emergency Food Pantry has been very busy. Donations have kept coming in so they have been able to purchase what is needed. They have purchased eggs, fresh produce, and meat for their clients. The clients are very grateful. The Emergency Food Pantry does not have any requests at this time.
- Care for Creation-Scout Lake Clean Up is set for Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Hands and Hearts

- The committee discussed how to distribute Easter gifts to the homebound parishioners. The members will deliver Prayer Shawls that were made available from the St. Alphonsus Prayer Shawl Ministry. The committee members will purchase plants on their own and deliver the plants and Prayer Shawls during the Easter Season to the homebound.
- The Senior Bingo Event for March was cancelled due to advertising glitches. The event will be rescheduled for June 17th. Advertising will be a priority for the three weeks preceding the event. Doors will open at 9:00am and Bingo will begin at 9:30am. This will be advertised as a senior social event.
- Father Kevin’s anniversary social was discussed. It will be held after the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, May 17th. The Hands and Hearts committee members are available to help with set-up, serving, etc. Parish staff will also be helping.
- Pat Tajnai has joined the committee. The hope is that we will continue to grow members.
- We have committee members who take the lead in the following activities: Camille Nicolai– Greeting Committee, Cindy Lima is the point person for our Homebound Outreach and Debbie Sievert is the lead on New Parishioner contact. Other areas include Name Tag Sunday, social events, etc.

- Three families joined the parish in February and welcome phone calls were made.

Finance Council

- The current year budget is on track.
- The Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, April 21st to approve the 2026-27 budget and submit it to the Archdiocese by June 1st.

5. Pastor's Report

- Holy Week went well.
- The three days of the Liturgy of the Hours had approximately fifteen people attend each day.
- Father Kevin added additional Reconciliation Days the week before Holy Week. He also had an additional priest for one of the days. The Reconciliation lines were very busy.
- Sacrament Season – Adult Confirmation was the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Teen Confirmation is Saturday, April 18th, and 1st Communion is the weekend of Saturday, May 2nd/Sunday, May 3rd. The Ordinations to the Priesthood will be Saturday, May 16th at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.
- The Air Conditioning system is being replaced in the priest sacristy, gathering space and the library.
- The Love One Another Campaign funds will be used for a school flooring project this summer.
- Panic buttons that were purchased with FEMA Grant funds were installed in certain locations in the church.
- Obtaining a back-up generator for the church and school is being worked on. This generator would be for essential services only.
- Father Kevin has completed his second year of Spiritual Director Training. He will be starting his third year of training.
- The drains outside need to be cleaned to prevent flooding.
- The carpets and pews were cleaned the week of April 13th.
- Mary Sue Taft agreed to serve another term as Trustee. There will also be a call for anyone else interested to submit their signatures for consideration for a parish election.

6. Other Discussion Items

- There will be a training/informational meeting on April 28th for new Pastoral Council Candidates with Sister Eileen, Chris, Kathy, and Camille.

- The next PC meeting will be on May 7th. New member discernment will take place at this meeting.
- The next All Committee Meeting is Tuesday, May 19th.
- Officer discernment will take place at the June 4th PC meeting.

7. Closing Prayer – Father Kevin

- Art Hokanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Nadine Flemming. None opposed, the motion passed; the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted by Camille Nicolai

