

Parish Council Meeting of 3/12/2026
Minutes ~ Approved May 13, 2026



Present: Marc Albanese, William Carroll, Liz Coats, Gerald Frank, Matthew Gebhardt, Cheryl Hine, Adele Jay, David Kaiser, Edward Koh, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Duane Porterfield, Kathleen Rourke, Sheila Ryan, Karen Salino, and Barbara Willers

Excused: Timothy Houseknecht and Jacqueline Leidenfrost

Guest: Eileen Heptig

Not present: Sharon Dal Cero, Patricia Dickerson

Opening Prayer: by Fr. Bernard.

Fr. Bernard also provided everyone with a photo of our new bishop, the Most Reverend John S. Bonnici, S.T.L., S.T.D.

Minutes: Minutes of January 8, 2026, meeting approved as written.

Committee Reports (*see reports*):

All committee chairs are reminded to include all parish council members along with Eileen and Susan when they send out their reports.

Word committee (education and evangelization) – Duane Porterfield:

- The Jan. 14 event with Matthew Kuhner from St. Bernards on “*Evangelization and Catechesis: Proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel with Joy, Humility, and Love*” as part of St. B’s “On the Road,” was well-received.
 - Cheryl Hine did a great job making this happen, with lots of other people who helped her.
 - A question was raised about whether it would be better to serve food before presentation. It was decided not to change the present format for now.
 - The next event will be on April 22 featuring Lisa Lickona S.T.L., assistant professor of systematic theology at St. Bernards.
 - Someone asked if it would be possible to have such events in the evening. It depends in part on the speaker’s schedule.
 - If these events continue to be successful there are lots of topics for future events.
- There will be a book study offered by Mark Scibilia-Carver. A notice will be placed in bulletin to see if people are interested.
- “Franciscan at Home” is a program that offers catechetical teaching at home (completely online). There are a large variety of topics available and all of the diocese is connected with this.
- Several children from our parish will be celebrating their First Communion this year. It will be celebrated in July at Holy Cross.
 - Kathy Sinkiewicz will coordinate a First Communion social event.
- Instructions for parents wishing to have their child baptized will now take place in their homes in order to get more of family involved.
- The parish is looking for people to be mentors and meet one-on-one with 8th & 9th graders who are studying to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Letters will go out to known

students in these grades to get them signed up to receive the sacrament. The theory is that having mentors will make it more convenient for students. Mentors would need to go through the diocesan's safe environment program.

Worship committee (liturgy) – Barbara Willers:

- Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at HC and on Fridays at SJA are going well.
- Eucharistic Encounter: we seem to get more people in the evenings so will return to 6:30-7:30 p.m. The next one is at HC on April 9th.
- Confessions: There will be a day of penance on March 24, from the conclusion of morning Mass through 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis. People just need to ring the provided bell if you would like to see Father for confession.
- Anointing of the sick service on March is set for Marcy 18 at St. Francis. The Fellowship committee will help with the luncheon that follows.
- The Triduum will follow the same schedule as last year.
- Incense- if the ceiling fans are in winter mode, will that pull air up?
- Holy Week: We need 4 altar servers for Good Friday at HC We will also need additional lectors. The HC choir will do each Mass for the Triduum and also Easter Sunday at HC.
- Ascension Thursday evening Mass at HC is scheduled for 6 PM is May 14th. This is also the next scheduled meeting date for the parish council. The executive committee decided to move the PC meeting to the previous evening, May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Witness committee (social action) – Gerry Frank

- SuperBowl Sunday was a success with \$630 raised and sent to the local food pantry. Additionally, over 250 lbs. of food were delivered to the Ovid food pantry from HC church.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication) – Sheila Ryan

- There will be an Easter Egg hunt at both HC and St. J.
 - The eggs will be stuffed by volunteers following the Palm Sunday Mass.
 - Andy will hide the eggs and there will be an Easter Bunny to greet the kids.
- The committee helped provide food for the sacrament of the sick luncheon.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Gerry Frank arranged for meetings to look at the condition of the HC rectory and see what needs to be done and what are the recommendations for possible uses for the building.
 - The results will be sent to the B&G committee and finance council before their meetings in April.
 - They came up with a dozen or more things that could be done to make the building more useable and multiple possibilities for the building's use.
- People have expressed concern over bird droppings on the new steps at HC.
- The railing for the ambo at St. James is still pending. It may also include a railing to assist people with the first step up into the sanctuary.
- Norm is no longer the B&G chair. The present chair is Kathleen, along with the assistance of various building coordinators, a new concept still being discussed.

Finance Council:

- Dan Hafford is the new Diocesan appointed Regional Finance Director for the Parish replacing Rebecca Pizzirusso.
- Eileen reported that there is a cash flow problem with \$21K needed for snow removal this winter along with \$20k needed for insurance.

Other Business:

- PC meeting dates and approved minutes (minus reports) will be posted on the parish's Council web page. The minutes will remain up for one year maximum or be removed as each new one is posted. The minutes will be sent to Susan in PDF format for her to post them once they are approved by the Council.
- Matthew Hall of our parish will be ordained a deacon in May.
 - Should the parish do something for Matthew in honor of this occasion? Maybe a special Sweet Sunday in June?
 - Father will have him serve as an ordained deacon during the first Mass after his ordination.

Closing Prayer: Father led the council in Hail Holy Mary.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Annex
Note that this is on a Wednesday instead of our usual Thursday due to the Holy Day.

Future meeting date in 2026: June 11 and will include new PC members. At the Boathouse?

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke.