

**Come to the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Immaculate Conception Church, Osakis, MN**  
**February 17, 2026**

Present: Fr. Matthew Kuhn, Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Todd Wentworth, Mike Ponicki, Darcy Thesing, Leon Breun, Rodney Roers, Mark Maloney, Sandy Wussow, Craig Highet, Tonya Marthaler, Marianne Shrode, Bev Paul, and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Nathan Eisel, Veronica Haavig, Dan Eckstein, Adrian Panther, Josiah Aultman and Maria Lopau.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 for Immaculate Conception representatives and 6:30 for the full council.
2. Opening Prayer.
3. Meeting minutes from January 27, 2026 were approved.
4. Pastor's Perspective
  - With the closing of area churches, we will have contacts with people from those parishes. He asked that we listen to them, hear their stories and thoughts, and offer them consolation. As Christians, we need to have empathy for their situation and be hospitable, to listen and be welcoming. Father asked that we not get involved in any negativity as it relates to the changes that are happening. We need to be a "people of hope." A prayer for our neighboring communities will be added to the petitions.
  - Evangelization – We need to get the tools to help evangelize into peoples' hands. Our witness of faith will make a difference in this endeavor.
  - State of the Parish Address – Father Matthew is planning to do this as an "ACC-report" with an event being planned after Sunday Coffee & Rolls at St. Mary's, inviting parishioners from ICC and SN to also attend. Date to be determined.
5. Election Process
  - Mike reviewed the process for the upcoming election of ACC pastoral council members for each parish. Adrian, Rodney, Tanya and Nathan will be completing their terms at the end of June. Tanya is completing her second term and Adrian will be ordained as a deacon in the next couple years; therefore, only Rodney and Nathan can re-enter the election process if they are interested in serving another 3-year term. Mike asked for people to lead the process at their church. He assigned the following: Adrian at St. Mary's, Tanya at Immaculate Conception, and Mike at St. Nicholas. The voting will be completed May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
6. Administrator's Update – Todd reviewed the following items:
  - Finance – The annual planning process will begin soon, which includes the 2026-27 budgets for the three parishes.

- Underfunded Pension Plan – Todd is attending task force meetings and zoom calls weekly regarding this issue as they review options and make plans going forward. He will continue to provide updates to the council.
- McGread Stewardship Conference, March 11-12 - traveling to Wichita on March 10 and arriving home the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>. There are six attending so far with room for more.
- St. Mary's School – Sixth grade numbers look good for next year. Kindergarten numbers are down from previous years; which is being experienced at other schools, too. If you know of families with upcoming kindergarten students, encourage them to contact Troy Sladek for a tour of the school.
- Facilities – The ICC chapel is almost ready to open. The most urgent project to address at ICC is tuckpointing the bell tower. The roofing project at St. Nicholas is being scheduled, as well as replacing the upper church windows at St. Mary's.
- Good News: Property insurance costs came in lower than budgeted.
- 7. Several thank you cards were completed. Due to time constraints, there were no individual committee updates this evening.
- 8. Next pastoral council meeting will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the basement at Saint Nicholas Church (6:00pm for SN representatives).

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.