

The Church of St. Mary
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2025, 4:45 PM – Parish Office Conference Room

Finance Council Meeting to order at 4:45 pm with opening prayer led by Todd.

Present: Leon Breun, Ron Kirscht, Craig Olson, Janet Schiltgen, Sandy Wussow, Mark Maloney, Todd Wentworth, Angie Dotty, and Fr. Matthew Kuhn.

Absent: Tom Klecker

Others present: Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Elizabeth Radil, and Troy Sladek (School Principal)

Minutes: Angie Dotty was absent from the previous meeting. Question regarding Coffee & Rolls was from Janet Schiltgen. Approved as amended.

Agenda: Approved

STANDING BUSINESS

1. Financial Reports: January offerings were \$16k unfavorable to budget. YTD is \$76k below budget. Loose collections are down \$24k from budget.
 - a. Kindergarten Round up was budgeted for January, but was held in February, timing was off. We budget tuition scholarships coming from the School Trust Fund in June – this is just for tuition and does not include fair share.
 - b. Payroll was planned and budgeted on a Cash Basis, but we continue to transition to an accrual basis. We have had four instances where employees do not notify us of bank changes, which cause us to receive a fee from Paycor. Todd is going to reach out to the Diocese to see if we can pass this fee on to our employees.
 - c. Health Insurance was planned for a 14% increase, but actual increases came in at 2.9% for single coverage, -5% for single-plus-one coverage, and 5.9% for family coverage. We did have two employees enroll in our insurance at the beginning of 2026 when they previously received the waive off credit.
 - d. Bishop Neary, the Board Chairman of Catholic Relief Services, had a special request to support relief in Venezuela. We tithed 10% of our weekly offering.
 - e. Physical Plant – electricity usage is down overall. There was an unusual usage increase noted on a recent invoice for the church/great hall meter. It was discovered that the sump pump was running continuously, the motor has since been repaired and we will continue to monitor. There were more repairs needed on the Skid Loader for electrical work. The previous work was for hydraulics.
 - f. Statement of Financial Position – Cash and Cash Equivalents for unrestricted funds is not a big number. We received our insurance bill from Catholic Mutual. We budgeted \$161,419, but the actual bill came in at \$108,962. Decrease in appraised values was biggest factor in the decline. We are also able to pay this in equal 12-

5. Stewardship/Legacy Dinner
 - a. Legacy dinner – tabled.
 - b. McGread Conference – we have six people going, Fr. Dan, Leon Bruen, Jodi Vanderheiden, Tammy Huss, Dan Eickstein, and Mike Helwig (ICC).
6. Parish Outreach
 - a. No business.
7. Related Entities
 - a. St. Mary’s of Alexandria Catholic Foundation
 - i. Foundation has surpassed the \$1 million in assets mark.
 - b. St. Mary’s Catholic School Trust Fund
8. Pastoral Council – Elections will be coming up. Fr. Matt will be doing a State of the Parishes talk at some point this summer. Numbers have been up at ICC and SN with the announcement of West Union, Brandon, and 1 of the Sauk Centre churches closing as part of All Things New.
9. Financial Update at Masses went well. We have received a few calls to increase their giving.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. Pension – discussion on progress from Todd, who serves on the task force appointed by Bishop Neary. The task force is working with consultants and legal from out of state to work through all the challenges with the underfunding, inherent legal aspects of the plan, and future options in the best interests of our employees (past and present).
2. Board of Education – no new business. There was much discussion about tuition, looking at a significant increase for next year. Ron Kirscht would like in advance a bullet point list of what Troy will be speaking about next time he joins a meeting.

Next meeting, March 17, 2026.

Adjourned with Glory Be at 6:20 pm.