The Church of St. Mary
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2026, 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, Tom Klecker, Craig Olson, Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Janet Schiltgen, Mark Maloney, and Todd Wentworth, and Fr. Matthew Kuhn (via phone).

Guests: Elmer Kobbermann.

Absent: Angie Dotty

Minutes: Ron Kirscht questioned wording in Old/New Business, the subcommittee referred should be noted as "Finance Council". Approved as amended.

Agenda: Approved, discussion on Pension plan will be moved to the beginning as Elmer is here.

Elmer Kobbermann, former St. Mary's School Principal, shared concerns on behalf of numerous retired St. Mary's employees regarding the state of the underfunded pension plan. He asked the finance council to write a letter to Bishop Neary showing support for the just treatment of retirees and current employees throughout the diocese. After Elmer left the meeting, the finance council members agreed to draft a letter and send it to the bishop.

STANDING BUSINESS

1. Financial Reports: Janet questioned about Coffee and Rolls and FF, why they are over budget. More so timing and budgeting. Ron – school tuition - $70k revenue short, scholarships have increased, trust fund has not funded the scholarships yet. We received $60k in restricted funds for church windows. School trust fund has agreed to donate $5k for boiler. 88% of fair share is from 7 parish families, 12% from 3 non-parish families.
    a. Cash position is starting to get concerning.
    b. Market has been good and restricted Fr. Al Investment is healthy.
        i. Fr. Al Investment is strong. Fr. Matt has not yet had another discussion with Elmer about the Fr. Al investment to help cover the increased salaries of teachers.
    c. Offerings are good, but not good enough, especially loose collections. Offerings for January are coming in below budget.
    d. Discussion on pension underfunding situation for lay employees (retired and active) and the likelihood of unknown financial demands on the parish into the future.
    e. Mass attendance is stable.
    f. Our ACC's All Things New plan including 1 corporation with 1 finance council effective July 1, 2028, has been affirmed by the Diocese of Saint Cloud's Committee for the Affirmation of Plans.

        i. Ron motioned to approve financials, Mark seconded, all in favor, motion passed.
2. Father Alexander P. Ludwig Benevolent Fund
    a. Reviewed balance – no new outstanding requests.
3. Facilities
    a. Update on windows, moving forward with anticipated start date after Memorial Day.
4. Stewardship/Legacy Dinner
    a. Legacy dinner – tabled.
    b. McGread Conference – let Todd know if interested.
5. Parish Outreach
    a. 10% tithe to Caritas – Venezuela (Catholic Relief Services).
6. Related Entities
    a. St. Mary's of Alexandria Catholic Foundation
        i. Scholarship applications for college/university students due end of day March 1
    b. St. Mary's Catholic School Trust Fund – Balances as of 12/31/25: Primary fund $1,392,759, Kirscht STEM Fund $36,804, Flaig Fund $14,437.
7. Pastoral Council – no update.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. All Things New
2. HR – 2 employees have requested MN Paid Family Leave Benefits
3. Subcommittee of Board of Education members and Finance Council members continues its work on a long-term approach to tuition. They have not been able to communicate with families yet and get their feedback. They do not recommend changing tuition models for the 2026-27 school year.
4. Early February - financial update from finance council at all Masses. Craig & Leon will present.

Next meeting, February 24, 2026.

Adjourned with Glory Be at 6:18 pm.