The Church of St. Mary
Finance Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 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, 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-

month payments with no penalty (this has been received in writing by Catholic Mutual).

g. We received the annual donation of $55,500 from our largest donor, which is slightly more than last year. The generous family lives in SD but have been summer residents in Alexandria.

h. Ron motioned to approve financials, Mark seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

2. Father Alexander P. Ludwig Benevolent Fund
    a. Reviewed balance – we will be using $100k for the window project.
3. Troy Sladek, School Principal, was present to give a "State of the School." We currently have 282 enrolled students, which is 14 students over last year, and we are currently all out of lockers. We are nearly at full enrollment. The turf project that was completed in July has created a safer space for students and has cut down the mess that is brought into the school. We have a much higher attendance for daily Mass. We have our own social worker, which has been a blessing for mental health. The full salary has been covered by a grant, and we get another $20k for the next school year, this is a part time position. The Student Theatre production on Willy Wonka was great; there were people standing to watch. Students participated in the Great Technology Giveaway of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Saint Cloud and earned second place and received $1,400. We have 6 kids participating on our first ever eSports team. Another combi oven and fridge cart are expected to be provided by District 206 for the school – this is to help support more homemade, higher quality foods. Our students participate in the district's lunch program. All school teaching staff will be going to Minneapolis for a Catholic Schools Conference – there will be expenses for hotel and food which have been budgeted for. The Kid Kare program has been going very well; we have about 70 kids enrolled. We will need to look at hiring new helpers as the two we have will be leaving for college next fall. Kindergarten Round Up went well, we have 34 kindergarteners signed up with another tour scheduled. The number of 5–6-year-olds is down so it will be a struggle to fill all 40 slots. Last year we did a 6th grade signing-day which went well, we have 45 fifth graders and 39 have committed to coming back for 6th grade. Projected enrollment for next year is a little below this year, with around 275 students for 2026-2027. Future needs for the school: a new fence around the playground, woodchips for the playground have constantly been added but decompose over time – may need to remove what is there and put something else in that is easier maintenance. The grant for our Literacy Coach is coming to an end, if we can't continue with our Literacy Coach, students who need extra support would have to be bussed to Lincoln Elementary.
4. Facilities
    a. Church Windows – Workers will be on site this week to drop off a lift and to measure the windows and complete some investigative work. There will be no parking in the handicapped section or along Irving St and 4th Ave while the measurements are taking place. The workers should be able to reach 6 of the 8 dormers – due to lift limits.

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.