Holy Family Parish Council/Commissions Meeting
Agenda

Date:	**May 7, 2026**
Time:	**6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**
Location:	**St. Mary's Education Center**

Attendees:

Liturgy	Faith Formation	Church/Parish Life	Justice, Peace & Social Action	Stewardship/ Evangelization	Family Life & Vocations
x Barb Simon SM Kim Cranston HT Nicole Slaubaugh SJ	Mary Ruth SM Valli Ruggiero, HT Angie Goodwin SJ	Regina Snyder SM Marianne Schlabach HT Cathy Conway SJ	Peggy Bush SM x Sandy Marner HT x Carolyn Rourke SJ	Dan Snyder SM x Rollin Secrest SJ x John Bush HT	x Jessica Watts SM Paige Cortum SJ x Magdalen Ockenfels HT

Lay Directors:

Dee Simon, Lay Director	x Junell Duwa, Lay Director

Staff:

x Rev. Benjamin Snyder, Pastor	x Deacon Derick Cranston, Pastoral Associate	
Tami Plank, Financial Secretary	x Jane Duwa, Business Administrator	Angie Goodwin, Youth Minister/DRE

Also attending: Bill Knutson

Opening Prayer

Deacon Derick opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of February 5, 2026 minutes for Holy Family Parish Council/Commissions Meeting

John Bush made a motion to approve the February 5, 2026 minutes of the Holy Family Parish Council/ Commissions meeting. Rollin Secrest seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Approval of agenda

Approval of the agenda was made.

Pastor's Report

Father Ben reported that Holy Family Parish had 13 First Communions this year. The Faith Formation year-end skating party had over 100 attendees. Everyone had a great time and the skating rink donated after 95 attendees. The Faith Formation year end celebration for teachers was held on May 3rd. There was discussion of a new DRE/YM position to manage the Faith Formation program. This position will serve as an outreach to families as the DRE gets to know and care for families. Will still need coordinators at each site to assist teachers that the evening runs smoothly. There was a good discussion regarding the Faith Formation program. Will be having Youth Masses where the youth can participate in the Masses with various roles.

Graduation Mass with a blessing for seniors will be held on May 17th at St. Mary's at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Refreshments will be served following Mass.

There will be an Installation Mass by the Bishop installing Fr. Ben as pastor of Holy Family Parish. Father will discuss dates with the Bishop. The Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's with a brunch following.

Father discussed the Totus Tuus Vacation Bible School which will be held July 27-31, 2026 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at St. Mary's. Daycare is a possibility, looking into this. Middle school and high school will be in the evenings. Will need volunteers to assist the team.

Commission Updates

Reminder – Please use reimbursement forms for Commission expenses.

Stewardship/Evangelization Commission

Faith Formation Commission

Liturgy Commission

Church/Parish Life Commission

Justice, Peace, Social Action Commission
Family Life and Vocations Commission

Finance

ADA 2025-2026

Goal - $55,942.00
Pledged - $58,768.00
Total Over - $3,164.00

We have met our ADA goal and any money over our goal will come back to the parish. Father noted that contributions are up.

Cemetery

Bill Knutson reported that Holy Trinity cemetery is running out of room for plots and will need to expand. Will need to buy land in the very near future, possibly to the north or the west, perhaps a half-acre.
The shed at the cemetery has a hole in the roof that is falling into disrepair. Bill recommended tearing it down. There are some tree stumps that need to be removed.
The American flags are getting worn out and need to be replaced with new flags. Deacon Derick said he would Check into getting a mini-grant from the WCRF to pay for new flags.
Carolyn Shalla is in charge of selling plots and her son, Clint, is helping her. She may want to give this up soon.
Bill is planning on retiring from his role as president of the cemetery committee. We will need to find a new President for the committee and possibly some new members for the committee.

Next Meeting

August 6th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Father closed the meeting with a prayer.

Liturgy Commission:

- Discussed inviting and training more new altar servers. Plan to develop a quarterly serving schedule for families. For example some of the parents of the First Communion class have asked as some were altar servers.
- Discussed and reinforced that lectoring is open to anyone who has received Confirmation.

Faith Formation Commission:

- K-8 Religious Education (2026-2027)
  Review and approval of proposed RE calendar and class schedule
  Key dates: start/end, sacramental preparation, and family formation events
- New DRE/Youth Minister Position
  Update on hiring process and timeline
  Transition planning to ensure continuity of programming
  Key priorities and needs moving forward
- Totus Tuus Summer Bible School
  July 27-31, 2026
  Hosting details and parish coordination
  Volunteer needs (youth & adults)
  Promotion and registration plans
- Family Formation Workshops & Events
  June 7 – Spring Family Workshop: "Faith in Action: The Spirit at Work"
  August 2 – Feast of the Holy Family Picnic
  Continued focus on intergenerational faith formation and family engagement
- Youth Ministry
  Overview of current middle school and high school programming
  Encouraging continued engagement beyond Confirmation
  Opportunities for service, leadership and participation at Mass
- Young Adult Ministry
  Exploring opportunities to engage young adults (18-30)
  Potential gatherings, faith formation, and community-building opportunities
- Adult Bible Study Opportunities
  Current and upcoming offerings
  Exploring expanded opportunities for adult faith formation
  Flexible formats (small groups, seasonal studies, etc.)
- Discussion & Feedback
  Council input on Faith Formation priorities
  Opportunities for growth across all age groups
  Strengthening family and intergenerational engagement

Church/Parish Life Commission:

- Pentecost Sunday – May 23 & 24 – supply cake at all 3 churches
- June 13th – Brunch and fun at Gina's place, 2930 105th Street, Riverside, IA 52327 for all ages, food, fellowship, pinata, kids games and music by Jim Adam
- August 2nd – potluck at the Kalona Park. Same pavilion as last year. Parish will supply the meat.

Justice, Peace & Social Action Commission:

- Rosary Project – We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the PLC in Richmond. We have distributed 4000+ rosaries. These are being distributed to members of our parish, in the states and overseas.
- Second Collection – (Confirmed at the meeting)
  July – Local Food Pantries
  August – Make A Wish
  September – The Catholic Worker House
  October – Catholic News Station
  November – The Backpack Program of local schools (food or school supplies)
  December – NAMI National Alliance for Mentally Ill
  January – MOPS
  February – Rice Bowl
  March – Rice Bowl
  April – The Catholic Worker House
  May – Local Food Pantries
  June – Hospice of Washington County
- We will continue to meet monthly during our rosary project.
- Future Projects:
  Community Thanksgiving Dinner
  Patriotic Rosary
  Angel Tree

Stewardship/Evangelization Commission:

- We're in the process of developing promotional materials for a presentation table to be hosted at events. This may include a pop-up and table posters, and hopefully hand-out materials.
- We will be sharing the G-mail Drive and Calendar with council members to be used at each commission's discretion. The Drive can provide a central repository for materials, document, photos, etc. The Calendar will provide an opportunity to coordinate schedules and hopefully help promote planning of events.

Family Life & Vocations Commissions:

- Kids bags refreshed with new items and bags added at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's in addition to Holy Trinity
- Easter egg hunt – 200+ eggs at St. Mary's; 70+ Easter bags for Holy Trinity & St. Joseph's (60-HT; 10-SJ)
- Coffee and donuts at Holy Trinity every week – have volunteers who help regularly
- Considering donuts once a month at St. Mary's
- NFP (Natural Family Planning) Informational Meeting
  Providing babysitting for kids of parents who come
  Provide resources
  Looking at dates