

St. Joseph the Worker Parish-Pastorate 1
St. Mary's Church, Bloomington, WI
February 3rd, 2026, Parish Council Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council Meeting of the St. Mary's Church of Bloomington was called to order on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026, at 6:30 pm with a prayer by Fr. Sudhakar. Council members present were Secretary Jane Patterson, Ginny Schaefer, Rose Mumm, Daniel Herbers, Parish Secretary Julie Jentz, Pastorate transitional team member Gary Mumm and St. Joseph the Worker St. Mary Church/Bloomington Representative Melanie Mergen. Members not present were President Tom Beyer and Chris Bishell, Fr. Mark Miller and Fr. Steve Brunner. No members of the public were present.

Financial Report: No financial report was prepared for this meeting.

St. Mary Fish Fry: Melanie Mergen informed the council that the price of fish has gone up \$3.00 a pound from last year. The council members agreed to stay with cod fillets; and order a three oz fillet instead of a 4 oz fillet. Due to the rise in fish prices, the council agreed to adjust the dinner prices. The new prices are as follows:

- four years old and under-free
- 5-12 years old-\$11.00
- Over 12 years old-\$17.00

The adjusted prices are in line with what other parishes are charging for similar events. ***The location for carry outs and drive throughs will be held at the St. Mary School while the sit-down meal will take place in the St. Mary Church basement.*** The Sports Raffle that was to take place at the fish fry will be postponed until the Fall Festival.

Spring Maintenance Projects: The parish is currently being charged for three separate water meters at the school, which has contributed to higher utility costs. Julie Jentz spoke to David Hermsen about consolidating the three meters into a single water meter. The council believes this will help lower the overall water/sewer expenses for the school/parish. The Rectory garage roof is leaking and needs to be repaired. The maintenance committee will seek bids from contractors for this repair. Melanie Mergen has talked with a gentleman from Prairie du Chien (John Cejka) regarding the church's basement carpet tiles. The council agreed that we should fix the areas that are in bad shape. John will look at the carpet and give us estimates for spot repair and full replacement.

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendar for these special dates and times:

1. Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026: [Ash Wednesday] Mass at St. Mary's, Bloomington will be held at **8:15 am** with the school children.
2. Stations of the Cross: will be said at St. Mary's Church, Bloomington on Feb. 20th at 5:30 pm, February 27th at 5:30 pm and March 6th at 4:00 pm.
3. April 5th is Easter Sunday: St. Mary's, Bloomington Easter Mass will be held at 9:30 am.
4. April 4th Easter Vigil Mass: Easter Vigil Mass will take place at St. Clement's Church, Lancaster this year starting at 8:00 pm.
5. Future events: Blakes Prairie Fair is scheduled for the weekend of July 17-19, and the St. Mary's 2026 Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, September 13th. This year the Fall Festival will be a one (1) day event starting with the 9:30 am Mass.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Will be held Tuesday, March 10th, at 6:30 pm in the Church basement

Fr. Sudhakar closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Jane Patterson-Parish Council Secretary