

St. Joseph the Worker Parish-Pastorate 1
St. Mary's Church, Bloomington, WI
May 12th, 2026, Parish Council Meeting Minutes

The Parish Council Meeting of the St. Mary's Church of Bloomington was called to order on Tuesday, May 12th, 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, Chris Bishell, Fr. Mark Miller and Fr. Steve Brunner. No members of the public were present.

Financial Report: Parish secretary Julie Jentz presented the July 1st, 2025 through May 12th, 2026 financial report. The report showed that the Parish's finances are doing well, Parish Church support is down from last year.

School Report: All teachers have signed their contracts. The Parish will be looking for a new school custodian.

Maintenance Projects: The rectory garage roof has been repaired and a down spout added to drain water away from the side of the garage. The storage room off the choir loft was checked by the Maintenance Committee members and could not find where the water came in. The council agreed to replace the rectory roof next spring and install gutter guards at that time. Painting rectory window casements and gable trim will take place after installing the new roof. The Parish is still looking for someone to clean the rectory and church eave spouts. Other maintenance items that need to be addressed are: new computer system for ringing the bells, light bulbs that need replacing in the Church, the barn fan that does not work up in the bell tower, the wiring system in the bell tower, and the bell tower roof/louvers that need replacing.

Parish News: Eric Fuerstenberg and Shelley Mergen are interested in serving on the parish council. We would like to see a couple more parishioners volunteer to fill several open council positions. Julie Jentz will contact Tim Norland to create a photo directory for St. Mary Parish before the pastorate merges into one parish. Due to Confirmation taking place in Lancaster on Fall Festival Sunday, the council agreed to return to a two-day festival so all events can take place. The Fall Festival Committee will hold its first meeting June 2nd, 2026 in the Church basement at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Events:

- River Ridge Senior Class Interfaith Service at St. Mary Church May 22, 8:00 am
- Weekly Gospel Immersion sessions with Fr. Mark starting on Wednesday, May 27th, at St. Mary Church 7-8:30 pm
- Blakes Prairie Fair on July 17-19, 2026
- St. John's Summer Festival on Sunday, August 9th with a 10:00 am Mass
- St. Mary's 2026 Fall Festival on Saturday & Sunday, September 12th & 13th, 2026
- Confirmation on Sunday, September 13th at 4:00 pm at St. Clement Church.

Other Business: Fr. Sudhakar's parents will be visiting from June-August this summer and will be staying at the St. Charles Rectory. Fr. Bart Timmerman will be celebrating his 25th Anniversary of Ordination into the Priesthood with celebratory masses taking place at the end of May, in June and July. Watch the bulletin for locations and times.

Next Parish Council Meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Church basement. Fr. Sudhakar closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Jane Patterson-Parish Council Secretary