

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Sacred Heart Center

1. Attendees:

- **Members Present**

- **St. Edward:** Melissa Martin (Chair), Bill Mahin (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Stindt (Secretary), Kay Rieke, Deb Krotz, Kelvin Blecha

- **St. Edward's Staff:** Micayla Walden, **Committee Representatives:** Edward Larson (Building Committee), Mike Baxa

2. Opening Prayer: Father Gnanasekar opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. Approval of Minutes: Kelvin moved that the minutes from the August meeting be approved as written and Deb Krotz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Pastor's Report: Father expressed gratitude for the Parish Council's presence and support to parishioners during these difficult times in our parish. He appreciated Bishop's visit to our parishes, his message and for his leadership. He announced the he had met with EMs and Sacristans and will have an upcoming lectors' meeting on September 3 to ensure unified procedures. Mass schedules through January 1 will be coordinated with Micayla so ministries can be prepared. OCIA will begin August 23 at 5:00 PM on Sundays, open to those discerning entry into the Church and to Catholics seeking deeper formation. Father and Micayla will expand prayer cards that are placed in the pews with additional prayers along with when they should be recited based on diocesan guidance. He also noted the Priests' Retreat in Wichita, September 7–10.

5. Old Business

- **Mary Statue Repairs and benches:** After speaking with Bob Morris, Melissa provided an update on the Mary statue repairs and benches. The delays are due to the bench backs not matching the legs, and the alcove top for the Mary statue has not yet arrived, though it is expected this fall. Melissa asked that the granite in the alcove be secured and also requested a temporary top so the Mary statue could be returned sooner, which Bob believes is possible, but no decision was made. It was suggested to place different decorative items in the alcove temporarily.

6. New Business:

- **Parish Council By-laws and Policy Amendments** – The Parish Council reviewed the current Bylaws and proposed amendments, provided feedback, and suggested revisions. Stephanie will prepare the revised draft in writing for review at the September 28, 2026 meeting, with the vote on the final changes scheduled for October 26, 2026.
- **Gifts Survey** - The Council discussed the Gifts Survey and how it can help members identify their talents and incorporate them into parish leadership. Father noted that the inventory is a valuable tool for self-discovery and for discerning new ways to strengthen parish life. All Parish Council members will complete the survey before the next meeting, and possible ministries will be added to each section for future planning.

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7. Committees

- **Family Life Committee (Bill):** Bill announced that the Fall Festival will be October 11, 2026. Parishioners are encouraged to contact Bill, Micayla, or Melissa if they would like to volunteer to help or to be a sponsor. The Parish survey will be readministered during Fall Fest as well.
- **Liturgical Committee (Father G):** Father reported that the Liturgical Committee oversaw the Mission Appeal this weekend and welcomed Fr. Simon Peter, who visited on behalf of the Diocese of Tumaco, Colombia. He also noted strong attendance at the Mass for the Assumption of Mary.
- **CCW & Knights of Columbus (Kay and Mike):** Mike reported that the Knights of Columbus have raffle tickets available for \$100, with proceeds benefiting the parish each year. The Knights also purchased Bibles and Catechisms for Faith Formation families and are working to fill committee chair positions. Kay shared that three members will attend the Diocesan CCW Convention on August 29 in Salina and that planning has begun for upcoming parish meals, with the first scheduled for September 20. Their goal is to have one monthly fellowship activity, not always hosted solely by CCW, to encourage parish community after Mass.
- **Finance Committee (Kelvin):** Kelvin has agreed to join the committee and summarized key points from the monthly financial report. The Council discussed whether the \$10,000 memorial designated for the benches should be transferred to the Savings Account. They also reviewed options for moving the Building Fund balance of \$212,904.11 to an account with a higher interest rate, such as the Catholic Foundation, the Salina account, or a six-month CD. The Finance Committee will explore these options and report back. Deb moved that Micayla gather information on interest-earning possibilities for the Building Fund and email or text it to the Parish Council, after which an online vote will be taken; Kay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Education Committee (Micayla):** Micayla reported that the Back to Class Bash for Faith Formation families will be held on August 30 at 6:00 PM at the Depot Market, with a meal, outdoor games, and an introduction to the upcoming year. Classes begin September 2, and all teachers and aides are in place. She noted that two classrooms received new flooring about six years ago, while several rooms still have older tile that is beginning to lift; the tile can be glued down for now, but full replacement will eventually be needed.
- **Building Committee (Edward):** Edward reported that the Building Committee met on August 4 to discuss the renovation project's postponement and reaffirmed its commitment to the existing plan under a revised schedule, which is now being developed. He also noted that during the Bishop's visit, the Bishop asked him to contact Jeff Easter from the diocesan Art and Architecture Committee as soon as possible; a meeting date has not yet been set.

8. The meeting concluded with a prayer from Fr. Gnanasekar @ 8:45 PM

9. Next Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2026. @ 7:00 PM.

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Action Items

Task	Responsibility	Deadline
Prepare revised Parish Council By-laws Draft and amendments	Stephanie	9/28/26
Expand parish prayer cards with additional prayers	Micayla and Father G	9/28/26
Complete the Gifts and Talents survey	All Parish Council members	9/28/26
Gather interest-rate information and email/text it to the Council for an online vote	Micayla	8/26/26
Set up meeting with the diocesan Art & Architecture Committee	Edward	9/28/26