Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Parish Council Minutes
Date: January 20, 2026

Members present: David Chamberlain, Father Todd Schneider, Spencer Kidder,Patty Kill, Angel Franco, Kayla Rinkenberger, Anderson Alvizures, Melissa Hamling
Members absent: Hayley Jay, Jason Murphy, Jeff Boyle, Randy Pashen,
Guests: Tanya Fischer, St. Mary's School Principal

Meeting called to order at 6:42 p.m. Father Todd read from the Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

Mrs. Fischer, principal from St. Mary's School, was in attendance to thank the parish for their ongoing support over the past year. She shared that she and the 6th-grade class had just returned from their annual trip to Wolfridge. This trip provides the opportunity for students to bond, grow as a group, and face challenges together. This Sunday, January 25th, is the kick-off to Catholic Schools Week. After the 9 a.m. Mass there will be breakfast served by St. Mary's. At school, there are daily dress-up days planned, a ski day, and a talent show. There will also be bowling on Friday evening. The school received a thank-you note from Stevens Co. Human Services for the generous gifts the school provided for a family over Christmas. Most of the items were all household needs such as blankets, sheets etc. The family was overjoyed to receive such items, as they were much needed. This opportunity teaches the children that simple acts of kindness can mean the most. St. Mary's School auction will be Saturday, Feb. 14th. Come celebrate Valentine's Day at the auction.

New Business
-David made a motion, seconded by Fr. Todd to accept the approval of the January 2026 agenda, motion carried.
-Kayla made a motion to accept the Dec. 2025 minutes, Mel seconded, motion carried.
-Spencer made a motion to accept the Dec. 2025 financials, David seconded, motion carried.

-Interior Renovation-The full renovation will be moving forward, and a timeline letter will be going out soon to members of the parish. Father shared the preliminary schedule with the council and noted there will be a meeting Feb. 4th to make a few updates. The renovation will begin after First Holy Communion, which takes place on April 12th. **We will be in need of strong, able-bodied volunteers when it is time to remove the pews for storage. Stay tuned for more details.** Thank you in advance to Deb and Dean Solvie for storing the pews during renovation.

150th Anniversary Celebration-A committee has been formed and is meeting regularly to help plan for our 150th Anniversary. November 1, 2026 there will be a special Mass with the Bishop presiding to celebrate the completion of our renovation and our anniversary. The KC's are planning a meal after the 9 a.m. Mass. There are plans for a new pictorial directory, and they are looking at two different companies. There is a discussion of commemorative gifts. Some

ideas were a Christmas ornament and/or a sticker. Father asked for any ideas or input from the council. Some ideas were a time capsule, updating facts and history on our website, asking Julia Dabbs from the UMM, or others with historical facts, to give more history about our church building, statues, relics, and stained glass. Perhaps some of the history and facts can be added to the pictorial directory.

Old Business

-Server appreciation, tabled until next meeting

-Lenten Speaker(s)/events-SAVE the dates March 14 and March 22nd. March 14th is the DCCW (Diocesan Council of Catholic Women)Women's Retreat-hosted at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, here in Morris. All are welcome to attend, men and women both. We are honored to be hosting this event. Mark your calendars for March 22nd, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass Jessica Barthalowmew will speak about human trafficking. The Fellowship and Service Committee is sponsoring this event. They will make a check out to the church, and then the church will pay Jessica $440. ($240 for travel, and $200 for her time speaking)

-Souperbowl of Caring-a collection will be taken up on SuperBowl Sunday-with proceeds going to the food shelf-Kitty Mahoney has been contacted to make arrangements for this after 9 a.m. Mass.

-Pointsettia delivery was accomplished. A thank-you note was received from the family of Shirley O'Keefe

-MAAA (St. Mary's of Chokio, St. Anthony of Brownsvalley, Ave Maria of Wheaton, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Morris) Update-the plan that was reviewed by the diocese will be mailed out.

Committee reports

Latino Report-Angel shared information from Fr. Lucho's parish about a message that Deacon Mario gave to the Latino's from their parish. He encouraged them to financially share in the responsibility of their parish. They could do so by offering up the amount of money they are paid for one hour of work at their job. This has immensely helped with the income received to help with the costs of keeping a parish open. The council opened the discussion that we all could reexamine what we are offering financially. Have we increased our offerings, as the expenses for operating have also increased? How can we encourage others to do the same? A reminder to all in our community that all are welcome to attend Mass and the 7 p.m. mass is in Spanish.

KC's-David reported that the Nativity that was outside for Christmas received great feedback. They hope to add more to it next year. Jan. 9th was men's night out. June 20th is the planned date for the hog roast. They donated to St. Mary's School auction.

Faith Formation-1st Holy Communion preparations are underway.

Liturgy Report-a big thank you for all those who helped with Christmas cleanup!

Pastoral report- nothing additional beyond what was noted above

Next meeting date -February 17, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Kayla Rinkenberger, parish council secretary