

St. Francis Xavier
Parish Council Meeting
May 13, 2025

Members Present: Fr. Dale Cieslik, Sandee Clark, Nancy Collett, Joey Followay, Pattie Mattingly, Keith Meyer, James Underwood, Chris Williams, Michael Zygmunt

Members Absent: Lou Leppert, Lisa Reed, Ed Scott, Paula Silliman

Others Present: Jennifer Sweeney, Deacon Earl Baker

Meeting opened with prayer.

Chairman Lou Leppert was absent, so Council member, Chris Williams, led the meeting.

Finance Committee Report:

Jennifer Sweeney and Chris Williams presented the proposed 2025–2026 parish budget, distributing printed copies for review. Jennifer noted the budget closely aligns with the current year's, and directed members to a comparative spreadsheet outlining itemized changes.

Key Highlights:

- 6.4% budget increase over the current year, attributed to higher-than-expected collections.
- Consistent contributions to debt reduction continue, with two additional payments made monthly.
- Xavier Center rentals remain below expectations, with some feedback citing traffic concerns.
- Technology budget increased to accommodate a planned website refresh.
- Maintenance budget adjusted upward due to rising maintenance costs.

Jennifer explained the collaborative effort of creating the proposed budget. She meets with each committee chairperson and each staff member responsible for a budget before estimating the numbers for the upcoming year.

Council members are asked to review the proposed budget and submit any questions before the June meeting, when a vote on final approval will take place.

Approval of Minutes

Chris directed a review of the March, 2025 minutes. James Underwood moved the minutes to be approved; Michael Zygmunt seconded; all in favor. Minutes were approved as revised.

Pastor's Report

Father Dale announced and welcomed both Pope Leo XIV and Father Jeff Nicholas. He showed council members the letter that was sent to Father Jeff naming him pastor by Archbishop Shelton. Father Dale explained the complexity of assigning Priests by the Personnel Board, of which he is a part.

The St. Francis Xavier Staff Planning Day is on May 27 9am-12pm and Father Jeff will attend.

Confirmation Mass with Archbishop Shelton is on May 15 at 7:00 pm. There are 14 candidates for Confirmation this year.

Graduation Mass will be May 18 at 11:00 mass. Approximately 14 graduates have registered for this mass, including Miss Sarah Kate Bischoff, the winner of this year's Pat French Scholarship.

The Bullitt East High School Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held in the church on May 27 at 7:00pm. Father Dale noted the importance of such community outreach.

The Priesthood Ordination of Deacon Cole McDowell is May 31 at 11:00 am.

The Priests' Assembly at St. Meinrad is June 2-5.

Because of the Summer Picnic, Mass is at 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 7.

Upcoming Nursing Home Masses over which Father Dale will preside:

- Green Meadows on May 22 at 2:00 pm
- Sanders Ridge on June 12 at 1:30 pm

Upcoming Weddings over which Father Dale will preside:

- Sweeney-Wright on May 17 at 2:00 pm
- Clan-Blake on September 20 at 2:00 pm

Vacation Bible School is the week of June 16-19.

The Office of Worship has directed a change in posturing and pyxes to begin the weekend of June 21-22. This is to keep parishes in the Archdiocese more uniform. Father Dale will explain these minor changes to the parish before masses on that weekend.

Father Dale's last weekday Mass is on Friday, June 27 at 8:30 am with a reception to follow.

Father Dale's other duties include:

- Priests' Support Group on May 20 at 1:00 pm
- Deanery Meeting on May 27 at 1:30 pm at St. Gregory Church in Samuels.

Upcoming Staff Birthdays:

- Deacon Earl Baker on June 22
- Wende Aubrey on July 3
- Lauren Battcher on July 8

Father Dale explained that some parishes in the Archdiocese will be closing. The Archbishop recently sent a letter to pastors including a questionnaire of reflection for a report to be turned in by each of them in August. Father passed out copies of the qualitative part of that questionnaire to council members to complete by the June meeting.

Old Business

Selection of new Parish Council members will be done at Pentecost Mass on June 8 at 9:00 am.

Nominations opened May 17 and will last for three weeks. We will be selecting two members and one alternate.

New Business

Father Dale reiterated the news of our new pastor, Father Jeff Nicolas.

Joey Followay has submitted his resignation as Chair of the Worship Committee. Chris thanked him for four years of service in that role.

Confirmation Mass with Archbishop Shelton is on May 15 at 7:00 pm. There are 14 candidates for Confirmation this year.

Bullitt East's End of the Year Choir Concert will be held at St. Francis Xavier on May 19.

The Summer Picnic is June 7. Keith stated there are no updates to report at this time.

Committee Reports

Administration

Chris Williams reported that the request for additional security cameras on campus has been voted on and approved.

James asked about data key fobs for all outside doors like the ones we already have for the Xavier Center. He stated this would add extra security. Chris made a note and will look into it.

Formation

No report.

Parish Life

Nancy Collett reported that the Women's Club held Spring Bunco and are planning to facilitate a Cake Wheel at the Summer Picnic.

Stewardship

No report.

Worship

Joey Followay reported that there has been one Worship Committee Meeting to discuss the flowers for Easter masses. Their next meeting is Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm.

Council Discussion

Sandee Clark brought up a concern about having the Raffle Ticket Tent open during the Spring Festival parade. There were a lot of speeding cars that cut through the parking lot because of road closures and traffic. Deacon Earl suggested this was a conversation for the Facilities Committee. Perhaps we should close our parking lot side road during the parade.

The meeting closed in prayer.

The next Parish Council Meeting is June 9, 2025 at 6:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dana Steinmetz, Pastoral Council Secretary