

St. Paul's Pastoral Council Meeting
4 March 2026

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M. with a prayer by Kent McCormack. (Fr. Osman finishing a zoom call)

Our Mission and Vision Statements were read together by all present

I. Attendance:

Fr. Osman – Pastor
Kent McCormack – President
Margaret Carlson – Secretary

Brett Kerspilo — CRE
Chad Hook — Booster Chair
Barbara Balbo — Women's

Gp

Mike Burks – Maintenance
Kit Tyler – Liturgical Decorator

Jim Schiffler —Liturgy Coord
Andrè Papillon — Music

Absent: 0

II. Pastor's Comments:

A. Year of St. Francis —Fr. Osman is looking forward to the Year of St. Francis (800 year anniversary of St. Francis' death) - 100 year anniversary at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. Bishop Rhoades will come to St. Anthony's to celebrate Mass, at 10:00 A.M., on June 14. The parish council from St. Anthony will contact our council to be involved in the event planning. Fr. Osman shared that the anniversary of St. Francis is an important opportunity for people to become closer with Jesus and receive plenary indulgences. There will be activities and events throughout the year. Also, this year of 2026 is the gift of receiving forgiveness—There will be more said on this throughout the year.

B. Carlos Acutis Oratory Grand Opening—Went well and is available 24/7 for those who have key fobs.

C. The Synod—Update was given by those in attendance. Received positive response. It was a time of reflection and what we feel is needed to improve the light and life of our church. People were open and honest on ways to reach out to our population. Fr. Osman mentioned we are going to have challenges to the church teachings and we obviously aren't going to change the teachings but accept on how the Holy Spirit will guide us. Also he touched on the use of AI is of concern with homilies and gender ideology. This feedback will be collected and given to our Bishop to create a plan. At this time Fr. shared the message from the bishop that prayer is most needed.

D. Fr. Osman was pleased with the birthday celebration for Fr. Raul. Having the birthday or anniversary celebrations at one location on a single day seems to be successful.

E. The Lent season How-goes-it—Lent is underway. Comments of concern received from parishioners about changing Wednesday Morning, 09:00 A.M., Mass and Adoration to Wednesday Evening, 6:30 P.M. Rosary, 7:00 P.M. Mass, and 7:30 P.M., Stations of the Cross. Morning group really misses their morning mass. Most not able to attend in evening—hard to attend the Rosary, Mass, and Stations and spend 2:30 hours on a Wednesday evening for families and senior citizens who do not like to drive at night.

F. Taking the Habit—April 15, 2026 Mass. Franciscan of Mary Priests will be officially receiving their habits.

III. Old Business:

A. Outreach program: Thanks to all who showed up on, 6 January 2026, as the council went through our current registration lists. Re-registration was discussed to place cards in pews and ask everyone to re-register or register if new members. Discussed sending cards or letters out to members who no longer attend Mass at St. Paul's Chapel. This would include asking if people needed rides, or if they would like to talk to a priest. A draft letter will be sent to Fr. Osman for approval. Early Summer will be a good time to start the registration/re-registration process.

1. Audit list: Completed on January 6, 2026 this council reviewed the current list and attempted to validate names or remove names of parishioners who no longer attend St. Paul's Chapel.

2. Register and/or Re-register members—using registration cards and/or QR code will be decided after our, 4 March, 2026 meeting.

3. We plan to have St. Paul Letter-head letters sent from our Pastor reaching out to identified parishioners, who no longer attend our parish, to invite them back.

4. A group or committee will need to help office staff—Pastoral Council will review the list and help office staff.

B. The Annual Bishop Appeal for St. Paul's had reached its goal—took longer to accomplish than expected.

C. Thanksgiving Food Drive, Nov 2025—The Men's Group Collected \$1.2K working with St. Vincent de Paul group in Angola—this money helped 15 local families (Angola, Camden, and Fremont) during Thanksgiving time frame. The Men's Group will work with St. Vincent DePaul again next year, Nov 2026.

D. Christmas Season Reflection/Lessons Learned—No issues or Lessons learned discussed.

E. Plaque for the Franciscan Friars—The plaque for the founding Friars will definitely go up this Spring next to the Statue in the yard.

F. Increase Family Events—Discussed having trivia or bingo at next parish events.

G. St. Paul's Feast Day Event—The Feast of St. Paul will be celebrated, 27 June 2026, with Mass at, 5:00 P.M., and a Polish dinner to follow provided by Mary Zeman's family.

H. Diocesan Training— The diocese conducted training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 7 February 2026, and Lectors, 21 February 2026. Three people from St. Paul's Chapel attended. Diocesan training for Lectors and Extraordinary will be planned to share information on new procedures here at St. Paul's with advanced notice so people can plan to attend.

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IV. Religious Education/Faith Formation: All is going well. There will be 4 students for reconciliation on, 15 March 2026, with Fr. Raul and 2 other students will go to reconciliation on, 22 March 2026, with Fr. Osman. There are 3 confirmation students. Brett has been playing a Catholic trivia game with the confirmation students about the homilies they hear in Mass and that's seems to be well received. Brett is following Therese format from last year and everything is going smooth.

V. Committee Reports:

- A. Boosters: Upcoming activities
1. Fish Fry - Friday (6 March & 20 March)
 2. Easter egg hunt will take place after Easter mass. (5 April 2026)
 3. Scholarship applications are available (1-30 April 2026)
 4. Albs: Fr. Osman is narrowing down choosing new Albs for Boosters to purchase..
- B. Maintenance: Nothing major is coming up other then putting up the Friar plaques in the spring.
- C. Liturgical Decorator: Josephine will help again setting up the flowers for the Holy Thursday altar. Also, we will have colored candles for the advent wreath from now on.
- D. Women's Group: We have been collecting food, held a baby shower and birthday party and participate in a card ministry for about 8 shut-ins. Barbara asked the council to let her know if anyone knows of a person wanting/needing a card.
- E. Men's Group:
1. Meetings on the last Monday of the month usually have 5-8 men.
 2. The men's group has started a six week series by Fr. Mike Schmidt on Worth-ship. It was a good meeting and the men seem positive about the series.
 3. The rekindle the fire retreat held in Fort Wayne was attended by Chris Pierson and Mike Burks.
- F. Liturgical Coordinator: Copies of the Liturgy Coordinator updates was handed out. In summary the ministries are growing, and at this time, Jim is working on Liturgy norms and procedures for St. Anthony and St. Paul's. This extensive handout also includes Synod plans , funeral and wedding masses.

VI. New Business:

- A. Lent going forward—Lent is going well and we are preparing for Easter.
- B. Easter Updates—There will be no Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at St. Paul.
- C. Minors working at Fish Fry/ parish events—Children helping at the fish fry will need to have a parent present according to diocesan directives.

- D. Christ Renews his Parish Retreats—(Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn, IN)
1. Women's Retreat (7-8 March 2026)
 2. Men's Retreat (21-22 March 2026)

VII. Other:

- A. Boxes of Joy—Boxes of Joy will not be ship by St. Paul this year due to lack of money. Boosters will think about funding the shipping cost for the boxes in the future.
- B. Funeral Luncheons—Margaret Carlson is overall coordinator for the Funeral luncheons.

The meeting closed with prayer by Fr. Osman and concluded at 6:00 P.M.

Next meeting: 5 May 2026, 6:00 P.M.