

## ST. MARY OF THE WOODS / ST. ALOYSIUS ~ PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 13, 2026; 6:00pm, St. Aloysius

1. Attendees: Linda Root, Jo Ann Pero, Dawn Staley, Kate Burchess, Bonnie Fish, Jim Grant, Richard Wentzel and Denise Elsenheimer. Missing: Dan Ingalls and Jim Malloy.
2. Prayer
3. Review minutes of last meeting held on February 11, 2026. Meetings for March and April were cancelled because of inclement weather. The minutes were approved with a few spelling changes.
4. Old Business:
  - A. Board members signed a card for Carol Heart thanking her for her service as a Parish Council member.
  - B. The board reviewed plans for Father Michael Verschaeve's 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination celebration, which will be held on March 19, 2027. Denise will visit the "Mill Pond" Park near The Trout Town restaurant in Kalkaska, Michigan to plan what will be needed for next year's parish celebration.
5. New Business:
  - A. MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT BRIEF UPDATES
    - The council reviewed the Knights of Columbus updates. In the absence of Dan Ingalls, the council reviewed that the Knights will hold a membership drive on June 6, 2026, at St. Mary.
    - Jo Ann Pero updated the council about St. Aloysius's Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) plans. They will hold their annual garage sale on September 15, 2026, at the South Boardman Legion. They are also planning a day retreat at St. Aloysius church on October 16, 2026.
    - Denise Elsenheimer reviewed Faith Formation and Youth Ministry updates. She mentioned that there will be program changes coming and she'll keep the Parish council advised as the changes become formal.
    - Denise Elsenheimer reviewed the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and adult faith events. This year, 4 adults, 2 teens and 2 younger children participated in these programs. Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be held at St. Ann Catholic Church in Cadillac, Michigan.
    - Jim Grant and Denise Elsenheimer reviewed Buildings and Grounds Maintenance events and plans and Finance Council updates.
  1. St. Aloysius:
    - a. Roof repairs: install snow stops and repair flashing
    - b. East parking lot & south side parking: Install 2" black top and add sidewalk
    - c. Lawn mowing: Church mowing weekly and cemetery bi-weekly
    - d. Jim Grant noted the kitchen door was left open after mass.
    - e. The council voted to allow Jim Grant to re-arrange the tables in the hall and remove room dividers to make after-mass gatherings more cordial.
  2. St. Mary:
    - a. Roof repairs: fix overflow and shingles on east side.
    - b. Flat roof repairs: fix clips that retain roof material.
    - c. Masonry in front of church; window rubber membrane seal repairs.
    - d. Parking lot repair: Needs new sealcoat.
    - e. Sink Faucet repair in basement.
  3. Cemetery Committee Updates:
    - a. Tom Simms is the Sextant for St. Mary.
    - b. Andy Hall is the Sextant for St. Aloysius.

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### B. Past/Upcoming Events

1. Confirmation/First Communion: honoring the students will be at St. Mary's 11 am Mass followed by a reception.
  2. Graduation from high school recognition: Three students are graduating and will be honored at St. Mary's at the 11 am Mass on May 31 followed by a reception.
  3. Memorial Day Commemoration at St. Aloysius Cemetery at 11:00 am. The Fife Lake Legion will offer a color guard with gun salute.
  4. Stations of the Cross: Lenten services were offered at St. Mary and St. Aloysius Churches on alternate Fridays. A fish fry at St. Mary's was very successful on the last Friday. For next year: The Fox's will do St. Mary's Fridays. If there are volunteers to do it at St. Al's there will be a fish fry there, also.
  5. Easter/Holy Week Update: Parish Council members were pleased with Lenten services, Holy Week service and Easter.
- C. Administrative Assistant: Training is ongoing for Josh. The resigning assistant (Jule Moore) is helping to train him until May 28, 2026. She will be available on call past that date.
- D. Cleaning Churches:
1. Richard Wentzel will check that cleaning is being done on Thursday mornings from 8:00 am to noon.
  2. The parishes have to make some changes in time card and duty procedures over the next 2 months.
- E. The Statue of Saint Mary in front of the Church building on the north side, at St. Mary of the Woods, needs to be re-set. Jim Grant noted that we may need a crane.
- F. Summer Events:
1. Parish picnic is scheduled for August 19, 2026. We need to think of games and entertainment for adults and kids.
  2. Kalkaska area Ecumenical Service project: Freedom Builders will help; Service project will be held over three days August 16,17,18, 2026 for the Kalkaska area churches to come together to participate in this service project..
- G. Crosses at the Fife Lake Farmers Market: Jim Grant recommended that the crosses could be sold at the Fife Lake Farmer's market on Saturday mornings or Monday evenings. The council agreed to fill out paperwork to join the market to sell crosses. We need volunteers to sell the crosses for 5 hrs on Saturday and 4 hours on Monday. The goal is to sell them twice a month. (Once on a Saturday and once on a Monday for the summer months)
- H. Agenda on Google Docs: Dawn Staley will work with Denise Elsenheimer to set up the software program. The objective of the software is to facilitate conducting meetings more efficiently, helping to write minutes and make it possible for Council members who can't attend meetings in person to participate in meetings using cell phones.
- I. Attendance of Council members is important.
1. Jim Grant and Denise Elsenheimer noted that Parish Council meetings in March and April were cancelled as noted previously. It is imperative that monthly meetings of the Parish Council be held so that recommendations to the Finance Council can be promptly made.
  2. There was some discussion about easing difficulties that Council members are experiencing with attendance. Dawn Staley suggested that cell phones could be used to tune-in to meetings from afar. Google also has a software program which would allow council members who can't attend meetings in person, to participate in discussions using the internet and cell phones or computers.
- J. Twin Birch Golf Course Benches. They offer benches for golfers, which have advertisement displays. The price is \$695 per year per bench.
1. The Council did not recommend purchasing the advertisement for St. Mary and St. Aloysius.
  2. The council suggested that we should inquire if other church denominations in the Kalkaska area would like to join in an advertisement jointly for a bench.

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- K. God's Garden: Meeting Thursday, May 14, 2026, at St. Mary of the Woods, to organize gardening for this summer.
- 6. Correspondence: Denise Elsenheimer handed out a Twin Birch letter about their benches.
- 7. Adjournment. Next meeting on June 10, 2026 at St. Mary.