

St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
Parish Council Meeting August 4, 2026
Meeting Minutes

- Meeting called to order at 7:02pm (Patrick Price/Fred Chandler)
- Opening Prayer – led by Fr. Varghese
- Roll Call
 - Present (in-person): Fr. Varghese, Karla Hudecek, Patrick Price, Geoff Ziegler, Fred Chandler, Sheila Brown, Nancy Stark, Evelyn Ridley-Turner, Mary Rice, Carissa Cartwright, Liz Fries, Liz Turner Suscha
 - Present (virtual/Zoom): None
 - Absent: Teresa Reynolds, Jim Trippi, Chris Durnil, Sonya Chevigny, Mary Catharine Grau, Lauryn Klitzman, John Sobotowski
- Welcoming New Members: Liz Fries and Liz Turner Suscha
 - Welcomed this pair, included a quick go-around of the present members.
 - Included the acknowledgement of the outgoing members of the Council.
- Approval of minutes from June 2026 meeting
 - Draft Minutes were prepared, previously shared and ready for approval.
 - Minutes were approved via consensus, as formatted.
- Comments from pastor (Fr. Varghese):
 - Welcomed all the council members (present and absent); spoke to the true meaning of the Council's existence.
 - A "kickoff" to the start of the new council year; recommitment to common goal, in the same fashion as St. John Vianney (feast day celebrated today)
- Comments from pastoral associate (Karla Hudecek)
 - Sacramental Prep / Faith Formation reports speak to the current
- Selection of 2026-2027 Executive Committee
 - Conversation ensued around these positions:
 - President: Sheila Brown
 - Vice President: Carissa Cartwright
 - Secretary: Geoff Ziegler
 - Motion made to accept this committee as noted.
- Review of Parish Council Roster
 - Members have been asked to review the edit of the roster
- Finance Committee (Liz Turner/John Sobotowski)
 - Still working on transition from John to Liz
 - Welcomed four new members to the Finance Committee
 - Reviewed Financial State with Ithream's assistance
 - Spoke to the plan and expectations of the upcoming fiscal year.
- Commission Reports (cont.)
 - Spiritual Growth (Fred Chandler):
 - Report shared and available for review.
 - Will identify replacement for Spiritual Growth commission prior to October.
 - Stewardship (Geoff Ziegler)
 - Report shared and available for review.
 - Potential for more specific ministry awareness (2-3 at a time)?
 - Community Engagement (Nancy Stark):
 - Report shared and available for review.

- Potential for an intentional “Thank You” to those who are departing from ministry lead role. PC Leadership to look further into it.
 - Update: Streets to Home Indy / Northside Congregations for Housing
 - STA to be included / Nancy to follow up
 - STA School (Mary Catharine Grau/Carissa Cartwright):
 - Nothing for formal discussion. First meeting of new school year on August 18.
 - Dialogue, Truth, Faith (Jim Trippi)
 - Report shared and available for review.
- Buildings & Grounds (Chris Durnil)
 - Archdiocese provided a grant to assist with carpet replacement.
 - Sam Sharp to take lead role; Chris to move into assistant role.
- Additional Items of Interest:
 - Needs Assessment Survey (Fred Chandler/Karla Hudecek)
 - Karla/Nancy taking lead with capturing and crafting this survey
 - Ministry review & Ministry Fair feedback (Sheila Brown)
 - Weekend of September 26 and 27 is confirmed.
 - Stewardship Committee to take the lead. Stay tuned for more.
 - Planning for 2026-2027
 - Set specific goals + brainstorm around the following:
 - Retired-age parish members – intentional outreach
 - Build up young catholic population – foster this community (young families)
 - Build up youth (middle/high schoolers)
 - Needs Assessment Survey can feed directly into the above.
- Ending Prayer – led by Fr. Varghese
- Adjourned at 8:47pm.
- Future Meetings: 7-8:30 pm (unless otherwise noted):
 - October 6 / December 1 / February 2 / April 6