

**OUR LADY OF KNOCK
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2026**

Invited\ Attended*:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Fr. Matthew Gworek* | Jean-Francois Beaulé | Dave McCullough* | Rebecca Roben* |
| Fr. Roberto McCarthy* | Carla Bystricky | Patricia McLaughlin | Carolyn Rock |
| Eileen Dignazio* | Pat Egan* | Mary Ann Muccino* | Jason Wagner |
| Janet Archer | Lauren Foote* | Ann O'Brien* | Bill Weksner* |

Open meeting 7:01 PM

1. Opening Prayer Fr. Matt
2. Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes – Motioned and approved
3. Sharing – Good/Bad News, Celebrations All
 - Dave – Ainsley was confirmed on 4/26, Connor was home to be her sponsor
4. Fr. Matt Updates Fr. Matt
 - Happy Easter! Easter is still being celebrated to remind us of the wonder of the season, while also incorporating the typical spring sacraments such as Confirmation and First Communion, both of which were held over the past 3 weekends.
5. Standing Committee Reports

Finance (Pat Egan):

The latest Finance Committee meeting was held on 4/29 to review the last 3 quarters. Operating income of (\$44 K) was mainly due to a dip in the Q1 offertory and a substantial increase in snowplowing expenses, which was more than \$58 K over budget. Capital expenditures total \$32 K to date, for electrical upgrades on the signs, statue balance payments, and a substantial downpayment for the HVAC upgrade. Additionally, parish investments underperformed due to volatile market conditions. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for 7/29.

Liturgy (Lauren Foote)

Ministry scheduling continues to be largely stable, with 217 participants across 5 ministries; the 7 AM and 12 PM Sunday Masses still have the greatest need for more volunteers. Two altar server training sessions will be held over the summer, post-First Communion to capture new volunteers and to refresh current altar servers during Ordinary Time. The Corpus Christi Procession will follow the 12 PM Mass on 6/7 at St. Mary's and plans are coming together for an outdoor Mass and Parish Picnic on 8/16 at the Knights of Columbus grounds.

Building & Grounds (Mike Gurski\Carla Bystricky):

In addition to the planned capital improvements at both churches this summer, the sub-

committee to evaluate our buildings and grounds not attached to churches has initiated their work, in conjunction with the Property and Assets Committee of the Archdiocese and local market appraisers to understand the property value and make informed decisions. The initial recommendation is to sell the Hart House which has not been used since the pandemic. It would be sold as is, likely with the garage included and driveway logistics to be determined. The Parish Council formally motioned and approved the decision to pursue a sale of Hart House.

Religious Education\OCIA (Eileen Dignazio):

The program has been busy celebrating the Sacraments, beginning with Confirmation on 4/26 and continuing with two weeks of First Communion, concluding this Saturday, 5/9. All 10th graders will be confirmed in the fall, all 9th graders in the spring, and rising 9th graders in fall 2027. The program will then return to the new regular schedule of confirming 8th graders each spring. After a short break, the next group of OCIA candidates – currently 10, including a family – will begin the initiation process.

6. Committee Liaison Reports

Haiti Ministry (Scot Scala\Ann O'Brien):

The OLK Haiti Ministry last met on 4/13 and reviewed the status of conditions at St. Therese in Lilavois given the ongoing civil unrest – all is largely stable at the school and church without any external interference. All 475 children are regularly attending classes uninterrupted. Upcoming fundraising events include a dinner and benefit concert tentatively scheduled for 6/4. Beyond the fundraisers, a combination of private donations and pursuit of regional and national grants should help with the financials. As always, all parishioners are welcome to attend the meetings, the second Monday of each month at 6:30 in the Gathering Space.

Social Justice (Clara Ryan\Ann O'Brien): No report

Cemetery (Alice Prunk\Janet Archer): Kentucky Blue implemented its annual price increase for interments, monument and marker installations, and overtime fees on 4/1. In keeping with policy, the cemetery updated its prices for customers and funeral homes effective 5/1. Implementation of the cemetery software is underway, with all legacy records and current gravesite photos scanned and uploaded, with an anticipated meeting on next steps soon.

Hospitality (Carolyn Rossitto\Dianne Liudzius\Jackie Gray): No report

Knights of Columbus (Gary Kopycinski\Jim Shortley\Mary Ann Muccino):

The following updates were submitted by Uncas Council 32, Wilson Council 20, and Assembly 2002 representatives – the Lenten fish fry nights were a big success with higher-than-expected attendance and ticket sales and the Knights have been busy with scholarship applicant reviews, a bottle and can collection drive yielding more than 4,000 containers, and the Faith Walk on Good Friday. The Knights will be participating in the upcoming Corpus Christi Procession on 6/7. State leadership continues to review the merger of Councils 20 and 32.

Men's Retreat (Bob Bonato\Lauren Foote): No update, the retreat season has concluded.

Women's Retreat (Mary Hagadorn\Lauren Foote): No update, the season has concluded.

Adult Choir & Music Ministry (Rick Daddario\Jim Lawrence\Bill Weksner): The adult choir season is ending in May, with a smaller choir continuing through the Corpus Christi celebration; the choir will reconvene in September. The children's choir under the leadership of Roberta Verbyla has gotten off to a great start in its inaugural year. Finally, the cantors will be setting up a meeting to discuss Mass assignment and other topics with Rick and Jim.

Scouts (Olivia Germano\Jean-Francois Beale): No report

Legion of Mary (LOM) (Jim Shortley\Janet Archer):

The Legion of Mary meets weekly for spiritual readings and prayers for those requested via the intention box or the notebook in the Gathering Space. Additionally, members continue to bring Holy Communion to many senior living facilities and UConn hospital, while assisting at funerals.

Prayer Chain & Prayer Shawl (Joyce Cruess\Jackie Gray): No report

Pro-Life (Ed Gales\Lauren Foote):

The annual bottle drive will kick off on Mother's Day weekend, with this year's proceeds split between the Hope Pregnancy Center in Unionville and St. Gerard's Center for Life in Hartford.

7. Old Business

- Non-standing committee liaison reporting expectations

8. New Business

- Lauren, Pat, and Sue deserve extra thanks for their help and based on the experience this cycle, we need to document "guidelines" for candidate down selections
 - Retiring council members are Carla Bystricky, Lauren Foote, Ann O'Brien, and Carolyn Rock
 - Newly elected council members are Ann Maria Castro, Mia Gryzwinski, Dylan Johnson, and Joy Pizzuto
 - Jackie Gray had to resign her position due to health problems; the remainder of her term will be filled by Greg Arcaro through June 2027
- Considerations of 2026-2027 parish council officers will be held at the June meeting
- A joint 250th USA birthday celebration by Avon and Farmington on 6/26 is inclusive of other community organizations with a booth presence, performances and/or food – we will need someone to volunteer to lead it but we agree OLK should participate.

9. Closing Prayer: Father Matt

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 PM motioned, seconded

Future Meeting Dates: June 3