

**St. John the Baptist Parish Council**  
**Preparatory Meeting for Family of Parishes**  
**April 14, 2026 | 5:30 PM**

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**Call to Order:**

Father called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

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**Purpose of Meeting:**

The purpose of this meeting was to prepare for the upcoming joint meeting between the parishes of Custer and Hill City as part of the **Family of Parishes** initiative.

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**Attendance:**

Deacon Pat, Father Collins Igwilo, Steve Riss, Jody Tennyson, Scott May, Dennis Dahm, and Mike Lewis

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**Overview of Family of Parishes Initiative:**

- The **Flourishing Families** initiative was established by the diocese several years ago to ensure adequate priest coverage across parishes.
  - As part of this initiative:
    - Keystone will close.
    - Custer and Hill City will become a Family of Parishes.
  - Each parish will maintain its own **finance council** and **parish council**.
  - Operations are expected to be similar to the current relationship with Hot Springs.
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**Discussion Points & Questions for Joint Meeting:**

- **Clergy & Housing:**
  - Clarification needed on whether Father Mark Horn will reside in Custer and/or use the rectory.
  - This decision will impact potential use of the rectory for office and classroom space if the church addition project proceeds.
  - Questions about how much service time will be available locally.
  - Will Father Mark continue his work with the tribunal in Rapid City two days per week?
- **Mass Schedule & Offerings:**

- Openness to discussing Mass needs and potential schedule adjustments.
  - Consideration of moving Saturday Mass from 5:30 PM to 5:00 PM.
  - Question of whether the Spanish Mass will continue in Hill City.
  - **Financial Considerations:**
    - Current priest salary split:
      - Custer: 41%
      - Hot Springs: 52%
      - Edgemont: 7%
    - Request for updated figures under the new structure.
    - Anticipation that Custer's percentage may increase due to parish size.
  - **Parish Membership:**
    - Uncertainty regarding where current Keystone parishioners will attend Mass (Hill City or Rapid City).
    - This may impact membership numbers and planning.
  - **Parish Identity & Collaboration:**
    - Strong desire to honor each parish's unique identity.
    - Willingness to collaborate and remain flexible to improve accessibility for parishioners.
    - Interest in working closely with Hill City's Director of Religious Education (DRE).
  - **Staffing & Offices:**
    - Questions regarding how office staffing will be structured.
    - Where offices will be located.
    - Whether regular office hours will be maintained at each parish.
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### **Tone & Preparation for Joint Meeting:**

- The council expressed a desire to foster a spirit of **collaboration and friendship**.
  - The joint meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 20 at 6:00 PM in Custer**.
  - Both Parish and Finance Councils are invited.
  - Scott will provide cookie platters, and coffee will be made available.
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### **Closing:**

Deacon Pat concluded the meeting with prayer.

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