

WORSHIP COMMISSION MINUTES

February 10, 2026

Members Present: *Larry Leporte, Kathy Wolff, Sharon Fitzgerald, Shirley Raasch, Angela Packard, Mary Gomoll, Diane Kahlscheuer*

Opening Prayer: *Sharon led prayer.*

Review of Minutes from Jan. 13, 2026 meeting: *Shirley moved to approve the minutes; Sharon seconded the motion.*

NEW BUSINESS

Report / Ideas from Triduum Workshop – *Larry and Angela attended a 5-hour workshop on the Triduum offered by the Diocesan Office of Divine Worship. Larry's comments after participating in last year's Triduum were that Stella Maris really does a wonderful job with the three services comprising the Triduum. Larry felt that our three-day Triduum service is very warm, intimate, and well done.*

Larry asked, "How do we impress upon our people the importance of celebrating these three holy days?" He shared that when he was in law school, professors took off for the Jewish and Islamic high holy days. The Holy Thursday Mass is in the evening so most people could attend. Larry wondered why people don't take off work to attend the Good Friday service? The Easter Vigil is the high point of the Triduum, but many don't attend because of the length of the service or because they don't really understand its importance. Our first obligation as a Catholic is to take part in these holy days. How do we convey the level of seriousness to understand how important these high holy days are? We all agreed that it needs to come from the pulpit.

Regarding the Old Testament readings for the Vigil, they were told "Unless there are grave circumstances, you should do all the readings."

Angela also understood the leaders of the workshop to say that attending the Vigil within the Triduum doesn't replace the obligation of attending Mass on Easter Sunday.

It was also suggested that combined parishes who hold the Triduum at one church offer different types of services at the other churches, as Stella Maris is doing with Stations on Friday in SB.

Participants were told that there should be a progressive solemnity with the music of the Triduum. We weren't sure what this means but will ask Mike and Lynn.

Larry asked if we should be holding Stations of the Cross on Good Friday if we're trying to encourage people to attend the Good Friday service? Since it has already been scheduled, we'll have to remember that for next year.

Larry stated that Saturday Masses are not Vigil Masses, but are anticipatory Masses.

They were told that the collection on Holy Thursday should be for the poor. Larry is hoping that we can publicize that the money from the Holy Thursday collection will go to CSR to disperse to those in need within our parish. We suggested that parishioners could collect money throughout Lent to offer on Holy Thursday. We encourage Father to emphasize almsgiving from the pulpit on Ash Wednesday or early in Lent. Larry will talk with Father Tom about almsgiving and the Holy Thursday collection and will try to write an e-letter during Lent to parishioners.

PLANS FOR LENT: Ash Wednesday is February 18.

- *How will changes in church environment and music be explained to the congregations to help them better understand the spiritual movements of the season? Many understand the opportunities for prayer and fasting. Angela is having a faith formation class on the First Sunday of Lent and will include info on church environment, music, prayer, fasting, almsgiving. Kathy suggested that Larry include a few sentences about the changed church environment in the introduction before Mass on the First Sunday of Lent.*
- *What about special opportunities for almsgiving during Lent? (See previous discussion above) Shirley suggested making or designating containers to collect money during Lent for those things you're giving up. Kathy remembered a priest who always gave a similar sermon as Lent began about the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Angela suggested that families and students don't know the basic rules of fasting before Communion, on Fridays, etc. and need education regarding these things.*
- **Lenten reflection booklets** – *Not By Bread Alone will be placed in church entrances by Feb. 14/15. This will be announced in the bulletin and at Mass.*
- **Lenten Activities Flyer** – *These went out this past weekend as a bulletin insert. Mary apologized for two mistakes (Friday Fish Dinner dates and Palm Sunday Mass at Jacksonport). These mistakes were corrected on the parish website and there will be extra copies of the corrected insert placed at each of the churches for those who were out of town last weekend.*
- **Envelopes for Easter flower donations** – *Envelopes will be placed in the entryways beginning March 7/8. Reminders will be shared in the bulletin within the Worship column and also in the end of Mass announcements. Mary will send these out to Lorie and Larry.*
- **Parish Mission** – *Mother Mary Catherine will lead our parish mission once again. People really enjoyed her talks at the 2025 mission, and we anticipate a good response this year. The parish mission is set for March 1, 2, and 3 at Baileys Harbor from 6:30-7:30 pm. It was decided that it would be nice to offer a social after the last*

evening (Tuesday, March 3) and those commission members who are in town will help. Shirley contacted the Sodality and they will work together with Worship members to provide hospitality after the final mission session. Angela suggested that funeral bakers might be contacted to help, if needed. Kathy asked if someone should write something up for the bulletin and announcements and perhaps someone needs to explain what a parish mission is and what is involved. Larry hopes to try setting up a new YouTube account with a link for those who are out of town to livestream the talks. If it's available, he'll use the bulletin and/or website to let people know about it.

- **Liturgy Planning for Palm Sunday** – Palms have been ordered. Mary stated that we'll need help a few days before Palm Sunday separating the palms and counting them out for the various parish churches.

The Palm Sunday Passion reading is from the Gospel of Matthew. Once the staff finds the script of the Passion that they want to use, several of us can make copies and staple them together. There will need to be 3 readers, including Father. We'll discuss which readers should be scheduled at next month's meeting.

We looked over the 2025 logistics plan for location of palms and congregation during the blessing of palms and whether there was a procession. We discussed what actually happened last year (inclement weather) versus what the plan was. Father mentioned earlier that the Saturday Masses at FC and JP will not have outdoor processions, but that he'd like to have outdoor processions at BH and SB, weather permitting. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

Angela would like to find someone to come to Sister Bay to teach the Faith Formation students how to weave crosses from their palms.

Other business:

First Holy Communion - Angela announced that First Communion would be held on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, at the 10:00 Mass at Sister Bay. There will be 2-4 students making their First Communion, depending on whether two come over from the Island. There are 4 adults who have been baptized as children who will be welcomed into the church during the Easter season, receiving their First Communion and the sacrament of Confirmation. Angela suggested that it might be nice to have them receive the sacraments on Divine Mercy Sunday, but she will be talking with Father about that.

Praying the Rosary and Adoration for our Country – Was scheduled for February 3, but only a few people attended. Father Tom is scheduling another rosary and adoration and will encourage all to attend on Wednesday, March 25 at 12 noon at Egg Harbor.

Next meeting: March 10, 2026, 10:30 am in Egg Harbor church basement.

Opening prayer leader for March - Shirley

