

St. Anthony Catholic Church

Columbus, Nebraska

Facilities Task Force — Monthly Update for Parishioners

Bulletin Update | September 2026

Task Force Members

Don Veseth — Parish Council | Gregg Melliger — Parish Council | Nate Oehlrich — Finance Committee | Rey Jarecki — Knights of Columbus | Margie Zarek — Parish Council and St. Theresa Sodality | Kathy Steiner — Bookkeeper

Fr. Harrison makes the ultimate parish decisions and approvals, with required review by the Archdiocese of Omaha. The Task Force serves in an advisory, research, and recommendation capacity.

Our Objective

Ensure the effective operation and upkeep of all facilities to support the continuity of church and parish events and activities, present and into the future.

Exploring Best Use of Former St. Anthony School Building

Where We Are in the Process

The Task Force has completed the initial research and document development phase and is now moving into the outreach and solicitation phase. Here is an overview of the process and timeframes:

Completed to Date

- Task Force Process Guide to direct our work
- Developed “best-fit criteria” and standards that a potential tenant must meet
- Created a Tenant Application Form
- Assessed Rent and Insurance Requirements
- Consultation and review of Nebraska state laws and regulations

Currently Underway — Advertising and Soliciting Interest (Through Nov. 15)

- Advertising available space through church website, Facebook, community outreach, and church bulletins
- Soliciting inquiries and applications from interested parties
- Showing the space, meeting with applicants, and holding Q&A sessions to ensure fit and requirements

Next Steps (After Nov. 15, Depending on Outcome)

- Work with interested party(ies) to address any building regulatory or licensing needs
- Develop a lease recommendation for Fr. Harrison's and Archdiocese's review
- The estimated cost to operate and maintain the school building is approximately \$100,000 per year. We desire to lease a portion of the available space to help offset these costs, while continuing to preserve parish activities and events
- No lease will be executed without Fr. Harrison's approval and Archdiocese of Omaha review

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Public Open Houses

We will be holding 2 open houses to better inform parishioners, neighbors, and the public. These open houses will provide open, transparent dialogue to learn about the process and the many considerations related to the use of space. Come ask questions and share your thoughts.

Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 PM, St. Anthony Parish Social Hall

Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 PM, St. Anthony Parish Social Hall

Campus Facilities and Grounds Update

The Task Force's responsibility extends to all campus facilities and grounds, not only the school building. We are committed to maintaining the campus in good condition to fully support all present parish activities, ministries, and events. The Task Force maintains a strong focus on the responsible and prudent use of your church funds, carefully balancing campus maintenance needs with faithful stewardship of parish resources.

Current Priority — Church Office Maintenance

The Task Force's current highest priority is addressing much-needed maintenance on the church office, including:

- Replacement of church office windows
- Paint and repair or replace church office gutters
- Paint and repair of church office soffit and fascia

These projects are under evaluation, with cost estimates being gathered.

Custodial and Maintenance Staffing

Given the changes with the closure of the school, the Task Force is reviewing custodial and maintenance needs for the campus. **We are currently seeking individuals for the following part-time paid positions with varying hours:**

- **Custodial** — general cleaning and upkeep of parish facilities
- **Maintenance** — light repairs, building upkeep, and grounds care
- **Snow removal** — 2" and under as needed, can be split between different parties or groups

If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, please contact the church office.

Questions?

If anyone has any questions about the Task Force's work, the school leasing process, or campus maintenance, please contact the church office and your message will be passed along to the Task Force.

St. Anthony Church Office

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This is the first in a series of informational updates for parishioners. No lease decisions have been made at this time. The Task Force is committed to full transparency and welcomes your input throughout the process.