

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, August 25, 2025 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:05pm

III. Roll Call:

Fr. Dana	(P) A	Brian Serpan	(P) A	Gary Luea	(P) A
Peggy Seibel	(P) A	Nancy Cunningham	P (A)	Gary Haas	(P) A
Allen Weber	(P) A	Curtis Weber	(P) A	Zachary Eck	(P) A
Patti Park	(P) A				

IV. Additions to Agenda: None

V. Correction and approval of April 28, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. Gary H. motioned to accept the minutes as presented; Allen seconded, passed 7-0.

VI. Public Discussion: Angela McCaffery – Scholarship Fund: TABLED for next meeting

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti: *Building Update:*** The bathrooms are completely finished! The students are admiring the work Mr. Cletus and Charlie put into them this summer. The furnace project in the library and Preschool classroom are nearing completion, just waiting on doors to come to close off the units. Walking Trail benches have been secured to locations around the trail. There is a 5th bench in front of the school, near the Circle Drive that may eventually need to be placed on a concrete pad, but for now is secured to the ground. ***Staff Update:*** Teachers participated in In-Service days leading to the first day of school. We completed required trainings with the State and the Diocese, along with CPR & AED training. There will be another, SERP Plan that we will need to include in the near future.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** The Back to School Pool Party had a great turn out after the weather decided to go south of us! At Meet the Teacher Night, the Ellis High School Alumni Association (Sylvia Deutscher) provided ice cream & popsicles for families to enjoy as they brought school supplies and met with the teachers. As of the last meeting, Sponsorship Drive reported \$5, 375.00 collected thus far. Our Fall Fundraiser is set to kick off next week Thursday, August 28th with chocolate bars, Papa Murphy Pizza coupons and trash bags. A big Thank You to Mr. Geoff Andrews, Catholic Schools Superintendent for delivering our chocolate bars to Ellis on our First Day of School! Next Meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** No new information to report. Next meeting is October 13th at 7:00pm.
- a. **Liturgy Report – Emily: Liturgy Report – Emily:** Parish Office will be closed on Labor Day, September 1st. Last Mass at Cedar Bluff is scheduled for Sept. 7th. Priest Renewal Days are scheduled for Sept. 8-11 – Fr. Dana will be attending a few of the days. Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts in September is scheduled for the 14th, hosted by Gary & Millie Haas.
- b. **Parish Education Report:** YDisciples will have their annual Kick-off night this Wednesday at 6:30pm here at the playground, complete with BBQ and a game of Kickball. We'll be looking for some more mentors to help with discussions. CCD will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd with Mass at 7:00pm. We have (2) teachers for all grade levels. Letters to the Confirmation students & parents will hopefully go out this week inviting them to participate in Mass on the first evening and a student/parent meeting on the following week. RCIA will begin on Thursday, Sept. 4th – as of right now we just have 1 participant. TRUTH Bible Study is still going strong with 10-12 people attending each week!
- d. **Maintenance Report:**
 - a. **South Side Door Ramp:** Zachary presented an estimate of the project being complete concrete with a 6'x14' porch, extending 22' long, 2' high, in order to make it ADA compliable. The existing stairs would be torn out. In addition creating a 35' slab + 35' sidewalk to connect to the existing front steps. All estimating to be around \$27,000. An estimate of 1-2 week project, pending the time of

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year project is completed. More details would be the railing – aluminum from Eck & Eck Construction vs. pipe railing from Ethan's Welding and completing the look by adding limestone around the bottom. No decision was made as discussion thoughts of using the North side instead of the South side for the ease of parking that is already intended for handicap within the Circle Drive. Further discussion will take place at next meeting.

- b. **St. Joseph & St. Therese Statues:** Right now, St. Joseph is being held up with a jack. We would like to have the two statues look the same and secured correctly for stability. We haven't had any volunteers step up to complete the project.

e. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:**

- a. **2025-2026 Budget:** Tabled for next month. Father Dana has the worksheets completed but would like to review them for accuracy before presenting to the council. He mentioned that if funds continue as they are, we could be \$75,000-96,000 in the hole to begin the fiscal year.
- b. **Increase Offertory Program.** The Diocese would like us to participate in the new pilot program to attempt to increase our offertory numbers. We met with Corrina from the Diocese to gather information. It's a 7 week program with the hopes that parishioners who are currently giving to review and increase their generosity to the parish and to encourage those not yet giving to begin to participate. Program is set to begin in mid-September. Communication with the Parish will be giving as the time gets closer.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Parish Directory:** At the time of the meeting, no volunteers had stepped up to help organize or create the directory. Emily presented the idea of asking Taylor Seibel, a college student from the parish, studying graphic design at FHSU with her own photography business on the side. Maybe she'd be willing to set aside a couple weekends to take photos of our parishioners and/or help in the design of the book itself. The council was in agreement to reach out to her to see of her availability.

IX. **New Business:** NONE

X. **Father's Comments:** NONE

- XI. **Parishioner Comments:** Emily mentioned shared the results of the Totus Tuus survey. There were 17 who submitted answers. Many of whose student participated, yet some who said holding it in July was a conflict with other activities. It was a mix response whether or not the 2nd week of July is the best time to hold the program – some liked the July date, others thought early June would be better.

Next Meeting: September 22, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 7:55pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer