

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, February 23, 2026 – 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. Corrections and approval of November 24, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. A correction: Under Maintenance Report. "but" should read "put". Gary H. approved minutes from January 26, 2026 with correction; Peggy seconded. Passed 5-0.

VI. Public Discussion: None

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Emily per Patti's Notes:** Patti has received a few inquiries about the open teacher positions we have for 2026-2027 school year. Last Wednesday, the students walked the non-perishable food items and cash donations collected during Catholic Schools Week to the Ellis Food Box Pantry. There, Mrs. Rita Younger gave us a tour and explained the different food donations and what happens to the donations when they reach the pantry. Classes had a Virtue Crew activity today. LOFT Lunches this week include Mrs. Meagher's Virtue Crew and Miss Brungardt's Virtue Crew. We are hosting a Scholastic Book Fair this week, Feb. 23-26, 3:30-7:00pm, a percentage of the sales will come back to our school library. We also have Parent/Teacher Conferences this week on Tuesday and Thursday. No School on Friday, Feb. 27th. The first week of March is Read Across America Week, March 2-6. There will be a daily calendar with special activities throughout the week! Hays Arts Council presents *Musician, Historia, & Storyteller*, with Thad Beach at our school on Tuesday, March 3rd at 1:30pm. The End of the 3rd Nine Weeks is March 6th. We will also be showing a movie to students who met their AR Goals for the 9 weeks in the morning. State Testing will begin after Spring Break.
- b. **Home and School Report – Emily per Patti's Notes:** Catholic Schools Week went well, despite the postponed date for the Soup Luncheon/Carnival. Before expenses, we profited around \$8,815.00. After the Carnival, the H&S officers decided to sell Valentine Candy Grams again this year for \$2.00 each! We sold 157 bars, totaling \$314.00. The Officers are planning to bring teachers meals for Parent/Teacher Conferences this week Tuesday and Thursday. No March meeting is planned – Next meeting has been set for April 13th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Emily per Patti's Notes:** We plan to meet on March 9th to go over/approve a 2026-2027 calendar.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily: Liturgy Report – Emily:** Stations of the Cross are every Friday at 5:30pm. The School Kids will be praying the Stations at 2:30pm on March 6th and 13th. No Musical Stations this year, as they are only in school for 2 Fridays of the Lenten season. "The Rescue Project" – Lenten Study Series begun this past Sunday and will continue on for the next 8 weeks. The group meets on Sundays at 10:30am in the church basement. March 8th is Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward an hour. This date will also feature Youth Choir at 9am Mass, followed by our Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts hosted by the McCaffery Family. Parish Auction is Saturday, March 28th, Mass at 4:00pm that evening, which is also Palm Sunday weekend! Lenten Penance Service will take place on Sunday, March 29th at 2:00pm. Thinking forward, we'll be needing volunteers for Holy Thursday, Feet Washing.

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- **Lenten Soup Suppers Reminder:** This Friday! Thus far we have 4 different kinds of soup (GBD, Mac & Cheese, Bean and Noodle, and Broccoli Cheddar), loaves of bread, and crackers. Still in need of a cheese plate, veggies and fruit, along with 1-2 desserts.
 - **Totus Tuus Date:** Heard back from the Diocese and are dates are July 12-17. This is the Second Sunday of the month, and the week of the Ellis Co. Fair. Hoping to share the dates early so families can plan their summer trips accordingly since that was the biggest down fall from last year's survey.
- e. **Parish Education Report:** We have the Rite of Election for the RCIA members coming up on March 1st at St. Nick's. We will have the Rite of Sending at our 9:00am Mass on that day. We will also have the Rite of Enrollment for the Confirmation Class at 9:00am Mass, March 1st. Fr. Dana also presented a handout about the upcoming ideas for the Restored Order. No plan has been provided by the Diocese just yet, so the ideas presented are ones he has for our parish until more guidance is provided.
- f. **Maintenance Report:** The Rectory's roof has been repaired – it did cost a little more than quoted as once they got up there, they saw more repair than they thought. The statue on the North side of the sanctuary has been repaired by Norbert Honas a few Knights of Columbus members. Gary H. and Gary L. have given approval to have AccuSpray continue spraying at the cemetery. Emily sent in the application to get on their schedule.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Fr. Dana believes the church and school budgets are on track for this time of year.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Security:** Brian has been in communication with Trooper Phil and is hoping to set a date for a training in early March. Will let the Council know when that gets finalized.
- b. **Auction 2026:** The website is active. There you can purchase admission tickets, raffle chances, and make a cash donation to the auction or the special project. You can also view all the items coming in thus far. So far, a fair number of items have come in, but still collecting them. The menu has been set for the evening – Dickenson's Catering/Kitchen-N-Stitchen' will be catering the meal.

IX. New Business: Gary L. would like to have the Cemetery Development on the North Side added to New Business in the future. Fr. Dana said he could provide a projective plan for the next meeting. Emily shared that plots are selling quickly and the number available has decreased over the last year. She suggested the Cemetery Committee meets and starts making plans for the future soon.

X. Father's Comments: None.

XI. Parishioner Comments: None.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:10pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer