

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, February 24, 2025 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:03pm

III. Roll Call:

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

IV. Additions to Agenda: None

V. Correction and approval of January 27, 2025 minutes: Two corrections: Commission Reports: School Council: "CARES" change to "KAIRS" and Unfinished Business: Auction 2025 "participates" change to "participants". Gary motioned to approve minutes with corrections. Allen seconded, passed 6-0.

VI. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti:** *Staff Update:* Mrs. Payton Eck is expecting in July! Deb Eller has retired from her position; last day was Jan. 31st. *Building Project Updates:* Karlin Roofing Co. (?) came today to paint the flag pole and attach the new rope. Once the clips get put back on, we can fly the flags again! *Race for Education 2025* mailers are about to go out! We are raising money to install a new security camera system for the school. Patti reached out to INAalert again. We have a meeting set up for March 5 at 9:30am to do a walk-through for a new bid. Gary L. asked about reaching out to Golden Belt Telephone and NexTech for bids as well. A Big Thank you to Mr. Meitner for supplying buses to transport St. Mary's students to mass with the Bishop on Friday of Catholic Schools Week. February 17-27 is the Baby Bottle Challenge for St. Mary's classrooms! On February 20th the 4th & 6th graders attended a Hays Arts Council Program, *Call of the Wild*, at FHSU. We had parent and teacher drivers! We have been discussing ideas with the teachers on items/ways classes can contribute to this year's auction. There are a few classes going together to create a special item. Question: Would it be possible to give the staff and their spouses a discount on the \$70 ticket for the auction ticket? *Stations of the Cross* will be on Fridays at 2:30pm with school is in session: March 7th is 2nd & 3rd Grade, March 14 is 4th Grade, April 4 is 5th Grade, April 11 is 6th Grade Musical Stations and they will do them again for the CCD students and public on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00pm. *Benches for the Walking Trail:* Short scriptures on the back of the benches. Patti wants to get input from the staff and students so that they are a part of this as well. *Read Across America Week* begins on Monday, March 3rd. We will be participating in a program from Books Are Fun call Book Blast. The theme will be focused around Dr. Seuss with different activities happening throughout the week. At the end of the Book Blast, each student will receive a book (s). Mrs. Hensley, our librarian, will be helping with this!
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** No Treasurer Report at the February Meeting but Father gives it to us here. For Valentine's Day this year, they offered to deliver Candy Grams around to the schools, daycares, Good Sam. It was advertised on Dogo, Weekly Happenings, SMS Facebook page and the bulletin to purchase a \$2 candy bar, a message was attached and delivered to whomever you wanted to send it to. This brought in around \$500! Scholarship opportunity for St. Mary's Graduates is now available. Patti emailed Nicole Carroll at the EHS about the deadline begin April 4th. Next meeting will be March 10th at 6:00pm.

A special meeting was called on Feb. 10th to discuss who to make the Soup Luncheon/Carnival better. Patti wasn't able to attend due to a meeting in Topeka. She doesn't have the specifics on the special meeting.

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes

Rectory – Monday, February 24, 2025 – 7:00 pm

- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** February Meeting was cancelled twice due to weather. Next meeting will be March 10th at 7:00pm.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:**
- **Ash Wednesday** is next week Wednesday, March 5. Fr. Dana will have Mass at 7am, 8:10am (with school students) and 7:00pm (with CCD students).
 - **Stations of the Cross** will begin on Friday, March 7th at 5:30pm. School Students will be praying them at 2:30pm when school is in session.
 - **Daylight Savings Times** begins on Sunday, March 9th. This is also Coffee & Donuts Sunday, with John & Andrea Zody hosting. At the 9:00am Mass, we will also have the Rite of Sending for the RCIA members and the Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation students. The RCIA members and Fr. Dana will be attending the Rite of Election at 3:00pm at St. Nick's on March 9th.
 - The Knights of Columbus will host a **Fish Fry** on March 7th. Our first **Lenten Soup Supper** will be on March 14th. We will need at least (3) meatless soups to offer. A crock-pot worth is great! I'd like to also offer some sort of veggie, bread, and maybe a dessert. Menu is really open to whatever anyone would like to bring. Any volunteers? – Peggy volunteered to help in April. I will also be opening it up to the parishioners to help out as well. Parish Council members will be the main hosts!
 - **Lenten Faith Formation:** Fr. Dana is offering the "Search" video series to parishioners during Lent. This series is on FORMED.org. He will start on Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00pm due to the Rite of Election on Sunday, but then will have sessions on Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm.
 - **Confirmation** is Sunday, March 23rd at 4:00pm. You are invited to attend.
 - **Parish Auction** is Saturday, March 29th. Mass will be at 4:00pm. Doors will open at 5:00pm.
- e. **Parish Education Report:** YDisciples & Confirmation Students will be doing their Lenten Retreat this Wednesday. The last two classes were missed due to snow. The Confirmation Class will need to continue with class time after Confirmation to cover all the topics. Confirmation Students will have practice on March 12th for Confirmation on Sunday, March 23rd at 4:00pm.
- f. **Maintenance Report:**
- ProTurf, LLC, AccuSpray (Jeremy Zorn): Mailed in an application form. If we decide to use them again for the Cemetery – I believe it's a nice gesture to return the application to let them know to keep up on this list. No action was taken – Gary L. & Gary H. will look it over and discuss what the best option is.
 - Father Dana will work with Mark Augustine on stickers in the school playground.
 - The "flower room" (north sacristy) gets very cold in the winter months. Sometimes the water pipes freeze. Father may start working on closing it in or insulating it this summer.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Father mentioned everything budget-wise is good. We are hoping to make up some ground with the parish auction. There was also discussion about the grant from KDHE for nurse and the possibility of renewing it without a nurse since Deb retired. Patti will be checking into this. There was also discussion about hourly Para amounts.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Auction 2025:** Procurement Committee meets tomorrow. New items are still coming in. Hopefully raffle tickets will continue to increase. We have had a few volunteers already to help the night of the auction: Millie Haas – check out, Craig Seibel – setting up laptops and training before the auction. We need a few more, so we'll keep advertising in the bulletin. Father Dana is looking into a sound system for the cafeteria during the event. Brian suggested that for future auctions of possibly having/offering babysitting services so more parents can attend the event.

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, February 24, 2025 – 7:00 pm

- VIII. **New Business:** News on Cemetery – pads are there! Wolf Memorial is making the entrance stones. Rick Cunningham will lay the brick work. It was supposed to be completed by last July, however we didn't get the information to the soon enough. Hoping Jeff's crew will be able to work on it and get it done once the weather warms up.
- IX. **Father's Comments:** None.
- X. **Parishioner Comments:** Brian brought up that he'd heard about parishes that keep correspondences with recently graduated high school students. He suggested our parish send out Christmas cards to our former students.

Next Meeting: March 24, 2025 @ 7:00pm (NOTE: This is the week of Auction)

Closing Prayer: no time was notated

_____ Minutes taken by Peggy Seibel.
_____ Typed by Emily Mattheyer.