

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, January 27, 2025 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:01pm

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 November 25, 2024 minutes: Peggy motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Allen seconded, passed 9-0.

VI. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti:** Building Update: We are still waiting for someone to come repair our flag pole. We had to replace the furnace unit between the office and Kindergarten room over Christmas break. The new unit is much larger than the old one, but a lot quieter. We have 5 students representing St. Mary's at the Ellis Co. Spelling Bee on Monday, February 10th at FHSU. The Race for Education committee is working at getting the big event started. This year's project is a security camera system. Last school year we thought we only needed a few cameras to look out to the playground area, but it turns out that our entire system could use an upgrade for better views, security, and additional cameras. A suggestion from Parish Council was to form a sub-committee to help Patti keep the project moving as it sounds like there has been a lot of "waiting" over the past year on quotes, products and customer service. The Salina Diocese is inviting everyone, including the Catholic Schools, to participate in the One Million Memorares for Hope. We will invite our students to take part in praying 100 Memorares and sending in their own personal postcard to the Bishop to bless.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Catholic Schools Week kicked off this week with the Carnival on Sunday, January 26th. Totals are still being figured but overall we think it went pretty good! This week's schedule is: Monday – Celebrating our Community – students and staff were able to have a Free Dress Day with a free will donation or bring a non-perishable item for Ellis Food Pantry. Tuesday – Celebrating our Nation – we will celebrate with a Special Mass with flag procession, prayers, and petitions for our country and those who serve. Wednesday – Celebrating our Students – we will be hosting our Student Talent Show at 2:00pm in the gym followed by a "Create Your Own Sundae" for the students. Thursday – Celebrating Vocations – students are making cards and writing letters to our seminarians! On Friday – Celebrating Faculty, Staff and Volunteers – we will attend Mass with Plainville, Holy Family and TMP at Immaculate Heart of Mary at 10am with Bishop Vincke. TMP buses will be coming over to pick us up and bring us back! Home & School Assoc. will provide lunch for the teachers and staff. Next Home & School Meeting is Monday, Feb. 3rd at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Discussed Catholic Schools Week and the activities. Patti will be attending the CARES Conference on Monday, February 10th and Tuesday, February 11th. Next School council meeting will be Monday, Feb. 3rd at 7:00pm due to the Ellis Co. Spelling Bee and Patti being gone.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** *February 3 is the Feast of St. Blaise.* Father Dana will bless the throats of the parishioners at this weekend Masses and on Tuesday, Feb. 4th for the school kids. **World Marriage Weekend** is Feb. 8-9 with special blessing at each of the Masses. **Coffee & Donuts** will be held on February 9th by Brian's family. On **February 16** our 2nd graders will have their First Reconciliation at

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2:00pm. **Priest Renewal Days** are Monday Feb. 17-20. Monday Mass will be held at 8:10am so Father can get on his way to Wichita.

Forward Thinking: Lenten Soup Suppers. Ash Wednesday is March 5th. The Knights will kick off the Lenten Season with a Fish Fry, but we will be responsible for the following dates: March 14, March 28 (the day before the Auction), and April 11. – I highly suggest skipping soup on March 28th unless someone other than Emily takes charge. Parish Council agreed to skip the soup supper on March 28th.

- e. **Parish Education Report – Fr. Dana/Emily:** CCD & Confirmation are going smoothly. YDisciple had 23 students attend last week. This week they have Preston Browning as their guest speaker to discuss what it's like having a disability, his story on joining the Catholic Church, and how he shows others how to be a disciple of Jesus. RCIA meets every Thursday and is going fine.
- f. **Maintenance Report:** Furnace at the school was replaced. The addition to the North side stairway to the church basement is still in progress; working on the doors and floors. Cletus is working on getting a game plan for the school bathroom remodel starting at the end of the school year. We will also be looking into having the convent and rectory roofs replaced, hopefully this spring.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Reviewed the assets and profit and loss for both church and school. Everything is looking good so far.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Parish Survey update (handout):** Reviewed and discussed the results. Out of 57 returned surveys, numbers and percentages look great. Now we just need to get those who have suggestions or negative thoughts to change their mind and/or take part in the church more. We will continue to communicate with the bulletin, church website and Facebook page, along with emails on occasion about upcoming events. A suggestion was to have postcards or a sign welcoming new parishioners to our church and providing them information on how to register at our parish, along with a bulletin announcement every once in a while. Another suggestion is having “unofficial” Parish Council minutes provided for the parishioners to read, whether it be on the church website or Facebook page.
- b. **Auction 2025:** Procurement Committee has been working on collecting donations from businesses. There are over 240 businesses being contacted for donations! The Parishioner and Guests letter was mailed out last week; over 700 letters! We compiled lists from participants from prior years, St. Mary's School alumni, and some from the Divine Mercy Radio Banquet. Fr. Dana has worked hard to get the auction website constructed – it is now available to view and will continue to change as items are entered on it. On the website, participants are able to purchase admission tickets, raffle tickets, and make a cash donation towards the auction or the special project. It will also be able to be used the night of the auction for participants to check out at the end of the night using their credit card. There was some discussion about the admission ticket price being too high – we hope that those who plan to attend think of the evening as a donation towards the school/church! An admission ticket includes: a bidding number, appetizers, main meal, dessert, and open bar. It's not an evening to “catch a bargain” but an evening to fundraise to keep our school and church thriving!

VIII. New Business: None

IX. Father's Comments: None.

X. Parishioner Comments: None.

Next Meeting: February 24, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:13pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer