

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, July 27, 2026 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:00pm

III. Roll Call:

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

Dan Dinkel attended this meeting as a candidate to join the Parish Council.

IV. Additions to Agenda: None

V. Corrections and approval of June 22, 2026 minutes: Gary H. approved minutes as presented; Curtis seconded. Passed 7-0.

VI. Public Discussion:

a. **Ken & Diana Kohl – Cemetery Committee members:** see notes under Unfinished Business – Cemetery – North Addition.

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti:** As many have seen and heard, the Eck & Eck Construction Crew has done a great job at pouring and creating the new parking lot space on the East side of the school! It looks great! Another item that many may have heard about is the new Kansas law requiring all public and accredited private schools to prohibit personal electronic devices in schools “bell-to-bell for the 2026-2027 school year. We are in the planning stages of what this may look like at St. Mary’s School, creating rules for when to use and the consequences if breaking those rules. School Council will finalize the plan at their next meeting and then information will be shared with parents/families. Patti will be gone for a meeting in Salina on Wednesday, July 29th. State Glass Co. should be in this week to start installing the new exterior doors of the school. Enrollment for St. Mary’s is Thursday, July 30th. Back-to-School Swim Party will be Sunday, August 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm. Teacher In-Service Days will be August 17-18, Meet the Teacher Night, August 18th and our First Day of School is August 20th. We will dismiss at 12:40pm – no busses will run as the public school is a full day.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Next meeting has been moved to August 11 at 6:00pm due to prior commitments.
- **Happy 125th Birthday, St. Mary’s School (Emily):** Set for August 22nd at 6:30-8:30pm on the back school parking lot and playground. We will have yard games for guests to play. Working at finalizing a meal but leaning towards hotdogs and hamburgers unless I can get a donation for BBQ pork done. Details are slowly coming together as I work at collecting donations for items. Open to have anyone help that is willing.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Next meeting has been moved to August 11th at 7:00pm to correspond with Home & School Meeting and members who attend both meetings.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** We close out July with the Eucharistic Conference this coming Friday through Sunday at FHSU campus. Hoping that some of our parishioners will participate in the weekend event. In August we have our Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts on August 9th with Gary & Millie Haas as the hosts. Gary H. asked to find a sub and/or trade with someone as they will be out of town. August 15th is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, it is not a holy day of obligation and will be celebrated at each of the weekend Masses.
- * Colby CYO Peaches – we have been placing orders with Colby CYO and their fruit sales for over 8 years now. I usually have about the same number of parishioners who order, making my trip out to Colby worthwhile deliver back to Ellis. This year alone, we sold over \$1,180 in peaches, that’s 24 full cases and 5 half cases. I would be eager to learn what it would take to coordinate with them to have our own fundraiser for

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the church, maybe designated for a particular project/organization to see if it would be worth our time to host. I know Hoxie CYO partnered with them this year.

- **Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts/Breakfast Potluck recap:** We had over 40 people attend the breakfast with many dishes to be shared around the table. Sadly, not many students were in attendance for the event, but for the ones who were, they got to meet the team members early.
 - **Totus Tuus 2026 recap:** We had a small group of 18 students in the daytime session and 10 in the evening session. I also had 3 high school students who helped throughout the week and a big thank you to Kinzie Sunley for being my head-helper! She was my go-to girl for the week if a student needed to come and go during the day, snack helper, picture taker, you name it, she did it!
- e. **Parish Education Report:** We are in search of a 5th-6th grade teacher(s). Judy is checking with a few who have taught in the past to see if they would continue on. We do have confirmation for a 2nd grade and 3rd-4th grade teacher. Still coming up with a plan on what the year will look like as far as preparing for the Restored Order and its schedule.
- **Bible Study update:** The group reunited last Sunday, July 19th to discuss what they wanted to learn about next. It sounds as if they have settled on reading through the Acts which will lead them into the main theme of the Catholic Church History. The group meets on Sundays at 10:30am in the church basement and is open to anyone who would like to join.
- f. **Maintenance Report:** Bats are still present in the school. Not sure yet how to continue to decrease their presence – hoping maybe Luke Karlin will lend us a hand with this lift to see if we can see any openings around the roof of the gym where they may be coming in. The concrete work for the East school parking lot is about finished and looking great. Once that project is complete, they will start on the church ramp on the south side. We had a \$30,000 donation come in from a deceased parishioner that will be used towards the remaining balance of the parking lot.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) June report – Church is the black for the first time since Fr. Dana can remember. Fr. Dana highlighted that the Increased Offertory Program, #iGiveCatholic Campaign and the Auction brought in more this fiscal year than ever. Hopes those numbers will continue to grow! The Final Finance Report (handout) was presented. Parish Council members agreed the amounts looked accurate and signed off to send to the Diocese.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Cemetery – North Addition:** The original cemetery committee when the north side of the expansion started was Ken & Diana Kohl, Mike Augustine, Wesley James and Dennis Bittel. Discussion took place to update all committee members and Parish council that we are not building a “new” cemetery; we are “expanding” from the existing one. The Lecuyer family granted the land to the parish to be used for a cemetery and is all that it should be used for, otherwise it could be turned back over to the State. Gary Luea has been in communication with Llyod Dorzweiler to come and resurvey the area to help guide the Cemetery Committee on the next steps of development (roads, headstone layout, etc.). We have the prior layout of development from Elmer Zerr to base decisions off of, however, we need current guidance now. Lloyd has agreed to help us. The Parish Council and Cemetery Committee agreed to move forward with Lloyd’s guidance. A future meeting with all parties involved will be scheduled. Gary L. also mentioned he had a suggestion given to use white rock base with sand on top of it for the roads. We would need to provide a letter to the County Commission to help with the expense and labor.
- b. **Election of Officers:** Allen motioned to elect Brian Serpan as President, Gary Haas as Vice President and Peggy Siebel as Secretary for the next fiscal year. Curtis seconded; passed 7-0.

IX. New Business: None.

X. Father’s Comments: None.

XI. Parishioner Comments: None.

Next Meeting: August 24, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:28pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer