

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, June 23, 2025 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:07pm

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: Church Security and Special Project to Unfinished Business

V. Correction and approval of April 28, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. Corrections: *School Report*: insert “grade” to read “Fourth grade teacher”, *Parish Ed Report*: “will” should be “with”, *Finance Report*: “bases” should be “basis”. John moved to accept the minutes with corrections, Allen seconded, passed 7-0.

VI. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report – Patti: Staff Update:** All teaching positions have been filled. We have two applications for Assistant Cook. **Building Update:** Making process. INAlert has installed cameras inside and outside. Looking into more secure interior doors. Walking Trail benches have been ordered and should be done soon. **Discount Cards** are still available! **Cemetery Clean up:** Mr. Dreiling and some other teachers walked students to the cemetery to clean up for Memorial Day before school let out.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Last met in May, no meeting in June or July. Scholarships went to Isabella Eck & Alyssa Rome. The Chocolate Bar for the Spring Concert brought in \$450.00. New Officers for the next school year are: Megan Honas – President and Courtney Bittel – Treasurer. Sponsorship Drive is officially underway. Alyson Johnson has agreed to be the Chairman for it. Home & School will have a booth set up at the Daughters of Isabella's Christmas In July Craft Fair selling chocolates and left over trash bags. Back to School Pool Party is set for August 3rd and Meet the Teacher Night is August 19th. Next Meeting is scheduled for August 11th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Matt Fondoble stepped down from President since he doesn't have any more students attending St. Mary's. Sarah Fischer agreed to be President and Annie Bollig is Vice President. Next meeting is August 11th at 7:00pm.
- a. **Liturgy Report – Emily: Liturgy Report – Emily:** July 4th – Mass will be at 8:10am. Parish Office will be closed. *** Looking forward on the July Calendar: We have the Daughters of Isabella using the Gym, Cafeteria and Kitchen for their Christmas in July Craft Fair on July 19th. They haven't asked for a designated person to run the chair lift yet, but is this something to consider?!?! The Kohl family will be using the gym the following weekend, July 25, and they haven't asked for a designated person either, however, I shouldn't mind “training” Ken to use it to help those who may benefit from it being available.
 - a. **Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts/Breakfast Potluck:** July 13th is the second Sunday of the month. I've decided to turn this particular day into a Parish Breakfast Potluck to not only the parishioners but also as welcome to the Totus Tuus members. Barney is supposed to be the host for the Coffee & Donuts this day – I've decided to take the lead on it and will get things rounded up. Barney is donating the OJ and some donuts. Would love to have some help from the Council and/or see you in attendance.
 - b. **Totus Tuus:** Will kick off July 13th at 7:00pm with the JH/HS session at 7:00pm. As of right now I have one family who will house either boys or girls, preferred boys, if no one else steps up. Daughters of Isabella will host an evening for supper and Friday snack after water fun. I am looking for volunteers to bring in lunch and/or host them at their home for evening meal. Emails have gone out to parishioners, school parents and CCD parents for registration and looking for volunteers. So far we have 6 kids signed up.

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- b. **Parish Education Report:** CCD Registration information will be hitting the inbox late July, early August. First Class will be September 3rd. As far as we know, all teachers will be returning.
- **TRUTH Bible Study:** A new faith formation opportunity has sprouted. The group met for their first discussion this past Sunday and had a total of 12 people in attendance. Alissa R. is the leader/organizer! She's new to St. Mary's. She's not only using this opportunity to help others in Bible Study but also a way to meet new people in the parish. She created a "study" guide for anyone interested. So far it's going great!
- d. **Maintenance Report:**
- a. **Bat Control:** Father Dana met with a company out of Macksville, KS, owned by a Catholic guy. He came out to look at our facilities and made some suggestions on how the problem could be handled. Presented a quote for the job to be \$55,000, with \$27,000 down payment. Father let him know those numbers were not in our budget and at this time would have to wait. For the time being, the bat problem isn't out of our control, Father believes there are some things we could do on our own in order to help prevent more bats coming in – sealing around the school roof better, watching for them entering/exiting the building, closing up areas in the gym around the ceiling of possible entrances. Bats don't like certain sounds and smells, so may attempting to use those methods could help keep them at bay as well.
 - b. **South Side Door Ramp** (hand out): Father Dana and Emily both have had the idea brought to them by a couple of parishioners. These parishioners usually sit closer to the front of the church and don't like the fact of having to go to the back to use the big ramp, when they already have a hard time walking/using steps. Discussion took place about parking, parishioners sitting in the front of church, changing the appearance of the church, what about installing a handicap door, getting better, accurate measurements, getting Parishioners interest (bulletin survey/feedback/donations).
- e. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Father mentioned everything is still on target budget-wise. A few special projects have restricted accounts. Nancy wondered if the idea of getting the Finance Council back on board was still a thought. Father Dana said it is in the works.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Security:** Gary asked if we have purchased signs yet for the parking lot. Emily had not looked into it yet. Gary L. said he would order the Trucking signs. He also asked about the lock for the Church Loft door. That is a work in progress.
- b. **Special Project:** No new pledges have been made, nor have we really pushed it since the Auction either. Brian suggested maybe this is the time that we start the Crowd-funding to get the word out and raise money outside of hitting up our parishioners again, though they would have the option to contribute if they wished.

VIII. New Business:

- a. **Election of Officers:**
 - John (2019) – 6 years – he will need to take year off before serving again, per bylaws!
 - Nancy (2020) – 5 years
 - Brain (2022) – 3 years - he could choose to run another term, if not, we'll need to fill his position.
 - Gary L., Gary H. & Allen (2023) – 2 years
 - Peggy, Curtis (2024) – 1 year

Brian asked the Council for permission to stay on for another term. They agreed anonymously. They also suggested he stay as President if he chooses. Brian accepted. Gary L. accepted the nomination for Vice President, while Peggy Siebel agreed to stay as Secretary. Other nominations to invite to Parish Council were: Zachary Eck, Angela McCaffery, Peter and/or Jennifer Schield.
- b. **Parish Directory:** It has been since 2020 since one was published. Should start working on another one. Volunteers are welcome to help create and organize getting photos.

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- IX. Father's Comments:** Would like to start working on the rectory steps, resurfacing them; make them look more appealing. Biggest challenge is going to be getting the carpet removed. The North Sacristy (Flower room) is finished, minor details to be completed. The Tree just outside the rectory door has been removed – thanks to Bob & Margie Mickelson and Barney Boos. The wild tree was growing between the stairs and church wall.
- X. Parishioner Comments:** Some parishioners have mentioned the cracks and paint chipping within the body of the church. There seems to be maybe some water damage up high. Suggestion was to make it an Auction Special Project for Repairs. Fr. Dana mentioned Rick Cunningham said he'd help with repairs once we are ready to tackle them. We'd need to either rent or find scaffolding high enough to reach the top.

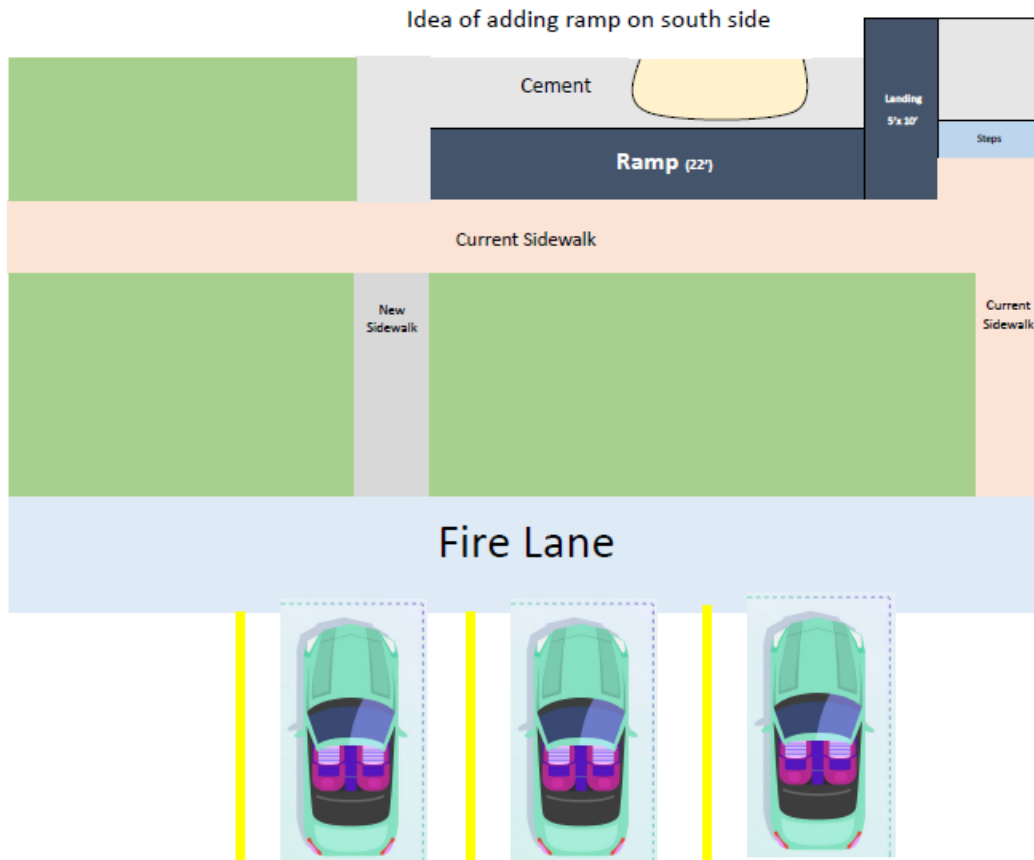
Next Meeting: July 28, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:31pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer.

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IDEA OF ADDING RAMP ON SOUTH SIDE OF CHURCH



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