

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

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:04pm

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: New Business: a. EHS Alumni Contract, b. D of I Craft Fair

V. Correction and approval of February 24, 2025 minutes: Correction under New Business "...soon enough to the" needs to be changed to "them". John motioned to approve minutes with correction. Gary L. seconded, passed 6-0.

VI. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti: Staff Update:** Preschool teacher, Michelle Geist turned in her resignation letter today, effective at the end of the school year. **Building Project Updates:** The upright freezer in the kitchen had went out during Spring Break. Thankfully Mr. Cletus was walking through and happened to check it because he was able to save some of the food. Some did have to be discarded due to the quality of it after being left in the refrigerator. Nathan Baker was able to get the freezer back up and running. **Race for Education 2025** project this year is to install a new security camera system for the school (inside and out). Patti reached out to INAlert again and they did have a walk-through. The newest bid presented from them is "cloud" based, which is about \$30,000, includes seven cameras in the building, 2 for outdoors and additional ones for the playground area. She also checked with Golden Belt Telephone, and their equipment isn't necessary apples to apples with INALERTs. But their quote was down to \$18,200 with few upgrades and no cloud storage. At the time of the meeting was still waiting to hear back from NexTech. Last year's Race for Education Project was the walking trail and we'd like to get the benches installed very soon. We are hoping to include a few scriptures on the benches. Will have the students pick out a few of their favorites and then vote on the final ones. **Baby Bottle Campaign for Catholic Charities**, we raised over \$570 in change. The 3rd Grade Class won with the highest percentage per class, yet the entire school was treated to popsicles for a job well done. The 3rd Grade Class enjoyed an extra recess and bubble fun! **Auction Classroom Baskets** are being put together. Classes either paired together or went on their own and will provide a basket to be auctioned off at the upcoming parish auction. **Stations of the Cross** – the 4th Grade performed Live Stations of the Cross last week and our 5th Graders will pray them on April 4th. The 6th Grade class is still working at putting finishing touches on Musical Stations set for April 11th. **PreSchool & Kindergarten Round Up** went great with 10 parents showing up to learn about St. Mary's. **Books Are Fun, Book Blast** was something new this year that Mrs. Hensley presented to us. Every kid will get at least 1 book. Students raised money to collect books for their own personal library as well as our school library! All together, our students will enjoy 280 books! **Discount Cards**-Mr. Dreiling is doing the fundraiser again this year to raise money for a new basketball court. Cards are a donation of \$20 each and will not expire until June 2026. **Black Mass in Topeka and Washington D.C.** – Superintendent Geoff Andrews emailed all of us schools about praying for the Black Mass happening in these locations this week.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Home & School Scholarship has a deadline of April 4th, so far we only have 1 application submitted. Elections for Officers will take place in May, a nomination form will be sent home the first week of April. Spring Concert is April 23rd at 6:00pm. We will be hosting a "Chocolate Bar" in hopes to sell some more chocolate from the Fall Fundraiser. Next meeting will be April 14th at 6:00pm.

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

School Council Report – Patti: Discussed the book from Geoff Andrews, Anxious generation and how harmful affects with social media has on our students. Next meeting will be April 14 at 7:00pm.

Allen Weber arrived at 7:36pm

- c. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** *Parish Auction* is this Saturday, March 29th. Mass is at 4:00pm with Doors opening and Silent Auction beginning at 5:00pm. Supper at 6:30pm and Live Auction at 7:30pm. *Palm Sunday* will be April 13th. We plan to meet in the school gym for the blessing of the palms then process over to the church. *Coffee & Donuts* will following Palm Sunday Mass. Our Host will be Peggy & Steve Seibel. *Lenten Communal Penance Service* will be on April 13 at 2:00pm. *Holy Thursday* is April 17th at 7:00pm. We will need volunteers for the Feet Washing. *Good Friday* is April 18th at 3:00pm. *Divine Mercy Novena* will also begin with praying of the Novena. A schedule is still being figured out. *Holy Saturday* will begin at 8:30pm. *Easter Sunday Mass* will be offered at 7:00am and 9:00am. We will also have the Blessing of the Easter Food/Baskets at each of the Masses. *Holy First Communion* will be on Sunday, April 27th, which is also Divine Mercy Sunday. First Communion will be at the 9:00am Mass. *Divine Mercy Novena Prayer Service* will be at 3:00pm.
- d. **Parish Education Report:** CCD students will be beginning their ARK Tests next week to test their religion faith knowledge. They will be having Lenten Confessions the following Wednesday, April 9th. And on April 16th, classes will have the opportunity to attend the St. Mary's School 6th Graders Musical Stations at 7:00pm. Last Day of CCD Classes is April 30th. YDisciple Students will have their Adoration Benediction Confession night on April 2nd, wrap up their session on Love and Dignity and then finish the school year on April 23rd with a Fun Night. Faith Formation "Search" meets on Sunday evenings at 7:00pm. We have about 5 people attending. The RCIA members have been participating in many of the Minor Experiments.
- e. **Maintenance Report:** We are still pending the insurance money for the Convent and Rectory Roof. Father Dana needs to contact Luke Karlin & Mr. Augustine from High Plains Roofing to see what our next steps are and a time frame to complete the jobs. The Catholic Mutual Report is coming up, due in April.
- f. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Father mentioned everything budget-wise is good. We are hoping to make up some ground with the parish auction.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Auction 2025:** Still needing a few volunteers to make the night go successful, especially with clean up and runners for the silent auction. Discussion about having a "Welcoming" speech from Patti & Father or even a family who has students attending St. Mary's to help express how important the night is and what our main mission should be for the evening.
- b. **Graduates:** Short discussion on keeping in touch with our high school graduates, possibly finding a mentor for them or a "pen pal" to keep in touch with as they journey through college. No further action was taken.

VIII. New Business:

- a. **EHS Alumni Banquet 2025:** The Ellis High School Alumni Banquet & Dance is on May 24th, 2025. They have asked to use our facility again for their evening. They have been aware that the bathrooms will be under construction and that if guests need to use the restroom they will need to travel upstairs. EHS Alumni asked if the Parish would appoint someone for the evening to run the lift, in the case that some guests are unable to use the stairs. Another idea suggested is that we put a couple of Port-A-Potties outside the gym door for use of the guests.

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

- b. **Daughters of Isabella Craft Fair:** The Ellis D of I would like to do a craft fair as a fundraiser this summer, "Christmas in July". They don't believe the Knights Hall will be big enough to accommodate the event so they are asking to use the school gym. They wish to also provide a small concession stand during the evening as well with access to the cafeteria and some seating. They'd like to know, if they'd be able to be granted permission to use the areas, what would the rental fee/donation fee to the school? Discussion on only a few dates available for the gym as we have Totus Tuus and Family Reunions taking place. The Parish Council didn't have a problem with them using the building as long as they are fine with the restrooms being upstairs. A suggestion was made to have them donate at least \$100 to cover the insurance and maybe have another \$100 for a deposit that could be given back to them. They may have access to the kitchen/cafeteria. Emily is to provide them the dates of availability and draft up a contract for them upon a date set.

IX. **Father's Comments:** None.

- X. **Parishioner Comments:** Nancy mentioned that the keyboard was having some glitching problems during Confirmation. Just wanted it to be known in case someone else approached the Parish Office. Not sure what it would need to get it checked out.

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

Closing Prayer: 8:30pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer.