

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

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:06pm

III. Roll Call:

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

IV. Additions to Agenda: None

V. Correction and approval of October 27, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. A couple corrections: V. Date should be September 27, 2025, not August, under Commission Reports, E. “but” should be “by”, F. “in” should be “it”, “piece-mil” should be “piecemeal”, and delete the space in “Auction 2025”. Allen approved minutes from October 2025 with changes; Curtis seconded. Passed 5-0.

VI. Public Discussion: None

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti:** *BTC Training* has been completed for Mrs. Park who has then trained the teachers on how to perform the future state assessments. Grades 1-6 are currently completing the ITBS Testing. Scores from these tests will help us make corrections on what we need to do better in teaching lessons for the students. We emailed a link out to all parents to complete the *Parent Survey* about our school. Results will be tallied and shared at a later date; this is a step in our school accreditation as well. *Collected Non-perishable Foods for Ellis Food Pantry* began at the beginning of the month. Items will be delivered to the pantry before Fall break. The 3rd-6th Grades will be attending Youth Day at the *FHSU Basketball Game* on Tuesday afternoon. We will be going on a bus with WGS. *Advent Angels* will begin in December – each student, teacher and staff member will choose an angel off of the tree and pray for that person throughout Advent season. We will then share a card with them before Christmas break to reveal who was praying for them. *6th Grade Class Helps Good Hope Quilters* move their quilts over the church after Fall break to be blessed and sent off to the Good Samaritan House in Colorado. We will be meeting with our Virtue crews soon to learn about Gratitude. The whole school will attend the *Holy Day Mass on December 8th*. *Music Concert* is on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00pm. The 5th-6th Grade Band will not be performing at St. Mary's that night, but will be playing at WGS on Monday, December 8th for their Christmas Concert. On December 19th, we will have our *All-School Christmas Movie*, it is also an early dismiss day at 12:40pm – the start of Christmas break. *Christmas Break* is from December 22-January 4, 2026.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** We recently held a RaiseRight Card Order, formally known as ScripCards. Holding a little class competition, the class with the most participation will get a special treat this week. It was a tie between the 1st & 5th Grade classes. The next meeting is December 1st at 6:00pm (a different date than presented last month.)
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** The next meeting is December 1st at 7:00pm (a different date than presented last month.)
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** *Liturgy Report – Emily: Thanksgiving Mass* will be on Thursday at 8:10am. *Advent* begins on Sunday, Novemb30th. *Poinsettia Donations* will be placed in the bulletin Dec. 6-7 and go through December 20th. *December 8th: Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation*. Mass Times will be Sunday Vigil Mass at 7:00pm, Monday at 7:00am, 8:10am and 5:30pm. *Youth Choir and Coffee & Donuts* will be on Decemeber14th at 9:00pm. Craig & Becky Seibel will be hosting. *Blessing of Baminelli* will take place the 3rd weekend of Advent at all Masses. Also, decorating of the church will

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take place following 9:00am Mass on Sunday, the 21st. *Advent Communal Penance Service* will be at 2:00pm on December 21. *Christmas Eve Mass* will be at 4:00pm & 6:00pm, and *Christmas Day Mass* will be at 9:00am. *New Years Eve Mass* will be at 5:30pm, *New Years Day- Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of obligation) Mass* will be at 7:00am & 9:00am. The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31-January 1, 2026.

- e. **Parish Education Report:** CCD, Confirmation, and RCIA are going well. We've welcomed another female mentor to YDisciple, Amber Wellbrock! *Restored Order* is still being figured out. We do know that we will be confirming larger class sizes in the next couple of years to get everyone caught up to begin the Restored Order close to 2029.
- f. **Maintenance Report:** *Playground* has new patches of grass planted and growing on the south side of the playground. Father Dana is also working at clearing away the old branches and trees along the church parking lot. *Lilac Bushes* need a lot of attention and maintenance. Considering "mowing" them down to start new growth. *Pre-Emergent* was put down on all of the church/school grounds by Mark Augustine a couple of weeks ago. The *Water smell in the church basement* is still being determined. There are thoughts that it could be venting issue as there are times where we can smell the fumes come into the Rectory. Nathan Baker with Plumb Simple has us on his list to come repair.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout)
 - a. **Increase Offertory Program:** So far 24 have returned the commitment cards: (1) currently donates ACH, (2) want to set up ACH, (3) Give but can't make a commitment at this time, (2) Give but will make other increases throughout the year, (10) will continue to give weekly via collection basket, (5) will continue to give monthly via collection basket, (1) will give annually. Emily has seen a few parishioners increase their weekly collections already via counting the collection.
 - b. **Upcoming #iGiveCatholic:** As of 3:00pm today we have had 9 online donations – raising \$2,775, 27 unique donors – raising \$11,300.00. Totaling \$14,075.00. We have used \$11,100.00 of our Matching funds thus far! The Knights of Columbus Matching Funds are live right now and have \$2,400 remaining. We also have the Daughters of Isabella's Matching Funds that will become live on Giving Tuesday. I had another donor come in this week and donated an additional \$5,000 to be part of Matching Funds – that will go live once the Knights have been completed. That's a total of \$19,000 Matching Funds – the most we've had in a long time! I'm hoping to push giving over the Fall Break via Facebook post and bulletin information!

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Parish Directory:** Many parishioners took advantage of Leann's Photos over the two weekends she was here! She has emailed links to all who provided emails for them to choose their favorite for the directory and then she will send us the big file. She met today with a few of them who didn't have emails! I'm going to cut off submission of photos on December 1st just so we can start forming the book and getting a layout created. Hopes are to get them distributed to families after the first of the New Year.
- b. **Security:** Fr. Dana ordered the keypad lock for the choir loft. It just needs to be installed.

IX. New Business:

- a. **Auction 2026:** We need to start working on this as it's just a short 4 months away. We need to contact the Procurement Committee again to make sure they will come back to help us. A goal for this group would be reviewing the business list, reduce who we are asking for donations and focus on items we want to get from those businesses. The Food/Decorating committee has met and have a caterer booked. A possible theme idea for this year is the Wizard of Oz. Yet, we are open to suggestions. We also need to be considering what to have as our Special Project: a new project or attempt to get remaining funds to complete the cement for the parking lot?

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X. Father's Comments:

- a. North Cemetery:** We will need to start working on new plans. There are roughly 20 lots existing in the current cemetery. Need to consider the layout, roads, future cost of plots, etc. Discussion from the Council was maybe to have a "contract" or line in the deed with language for once a plot becomes dormant for X number of years, it returns back to the church to be used.

XI. Parishioner Comments: Brian mentioned he had a conversation recently with questions asking what are the plans for the Convent. This person thought it would be a great idea to turn it into a Airbnb to collect extra income for the parish. There are still no set plans for the house, yet Father is eager to get it updated at some point.

Next Meeting: January 26, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:02pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer