

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

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:09pm

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 August 25, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. Gary L. motioned to accept the minutes as presented; Gary H. seconded, passed 3-0.

VI. Public Discussion: None

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti: *Upcoming Events:*** Tues., Oct. 28 - Hays Arts Council will be hosting: 4th & 5th grade, "Schoolhouse Rock, Live" and K-1, "The Three Little Pigs". We will have our first night of P/T Conf., 4:00-7:00 p.m. Wed., Oct. 29: Miss Werth will be Principal for a Day! We will also have Vision Screenings and GTH in the LOFT! On Thurs., Oct. 30, our 6th Grade Class will do their Saints Presentations after Mass; we'll have Fall Festival Parties in the afternoon and finish the day with our final evening of P/T Conf., 4:00-7:00 p.m. Fri., Oct. 31: there is No School! Sat., Nov. 1: Gunner Gabel will be representing SMS at Holy Fire for 6th-8th graders at FHSU. ***Parent Survey*** was sent out for our diocese/school data purposes. This feedback is an essential part of our accreditation and school improvement process. The Cognia Parent & Community Survey helps the school evaluate and improve several key areas that align with specific accreditation standards: 1) Family Engagement: how welcomed and respected families feel at school, 2) Student Safety: evaluates how safe and supported students feel, 3) High Expectations: how adults in the school set high expectations for learning, 4) Instructional Quality: examines how engaging, challenging, and connected to real life the instruction is, and 5) Feedback and Progress Monitoring: how teachers monitor progress and provide meaningful feedback. ***Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive*** is a Diocesan-wide service project in partnership with Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas. I will take diaper donations to Catholic Charities in Hays on Nov. 7th.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Fall Fundraiser Award Party was held at FHSU on October 23rd. We rented 2 USD 388 buses. Trash bag orders will go out this week. Parents will pick up at P/T Conferences. Others will notify by H&S for pick up. Home & School has agreed to be a matching donor again this year for #iGiveCatholic, donating \$2,000.00. Committees are being formed for our Carnival and Soup Lunch on Jan. 25, 2026. There won't be a meeting in November; next meeting is December 9th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Went over any questions they had on the video sent to the council last month. Shared the Home & School report. No meeting in November; next meeting is December 9th at 7:00pm.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily: Liturgy Report – Emily:** *All Saints Day* is Saturday, Nov. 1st. Not a holy day of obligation, no additional Masses were scheduled. *Daylight Savings Ends and All Souls Day* is Sunday, Nov. 2nd. We will have our annual Cemetery Prayer Service following 9am Mass and our Remembering Prayer Service at 4:00pm. *Coffee & Donuts* in November will be hosted by Gary & Shyrl Luea. *Parish*

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes

Rectory – Monday, October 27, 2025 – 7:00 pm

Directory Photo Days are Nov. 8 & 9 and Nov. 15. *Veterans Day* is Nov. 11th – be sure to attend a Veterans' Day ceremony if you can.

- e. **Parish Education Report: Holy Fire – Nov. 1st:** We have 10 students in 6th-8th grades attending, 2 adult sponsors/drivers at FHSU. Thank you Peggy Seibel and Deb Kinderknecht for volunteering to attend with the students. Fr. Dana is unable to attend due to a funeral that has been scheduled. RCIA has 2 people going through the course, we've had other interested but not committed. **Restored Order** discussion: Father Dana has been trying to come up a plan that will work best for St. Mary's Parish. At this time, we know 3rd graders will receive the sacrament, but when will they begin? This is to be determined, although, but 2029, all students between now and then will have had received their First Communion and Confirmation.
- f. **Maintenance Report: South Side Ramp:** Fr. Dana mentioned we have a potential donor to support the project and has asked Zachary put in on the Eck & Eck Construction project list for the Spring. Zachary mentioned that there is still some fine-tuning of ideas/designs to finalize which he will bring back to next month's meeting. **School Parking Lot behind School:** Do we piece-mil it or do we do one big project? The Special Project at the Auction 2 025 only raised \$22,000 towards the project; we need to double that to complete the project. No decision was made. **Lawn on East Side of Rectory:** Father has been working at filling in the holes from the dirt pile. He plans to use the dormant planting method before the first hard frost/snow in hopes grass will start to sprout in the spring. He would also like to have Mark Augustine pre-emerge the soccer fields as well.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout)
 - a. **Increase Offertory Program:** A newsletter went out last week. Our next step is to find a couple of "lay witnesses" to talk to the parish on Why They Should Give More. Instead of having parishioners speak at the Masses, Fr. Dana suggested on having a couple of parishioners write up testimonials and we publish them within a bulletin insert this coming weekend. Following testimonials, a letter and commitment cards will be mailed out. There is a possibility that they will overlap with mailings about #iGiveCatholic. – Parishioners will need to be reminded that they are two different ideas of giving: one time verses future giving.
 - b. **Upcoming #iGiveCatholic:** Emily provided a sample letter to the council. Hoping to get them to the parishioners and past donors in the next week or so. So far we have \$2,000 of Matching Funds from the Home & School with potential funds coming from the Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Isabella. My total goal for the campaign is to raise \$40,000.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Parish Directory:** At the time of the meeting, we have 52 families signed up and 9 photos submitted. I'm going to be asking for help to call parishioners to get them scheduled. Gary H. volunteered to take on 7am Mass and Curtis after 9am Mass for this weekend to catch people after Mass.
- b. **Security:** Gary L. stressed how much he is in favor of having a lock on the balcony to keep others from going up there when not needed. Whether it is a deadbolt keypad, or a key. Those that utilize the balcony will have access to the lock only. Father Dana will look into purchasing a keypad lock.

IX. New Business:

- a. **North Cemetery:** We will need to start working on new plans. There are roughly 30 lots existing in the current cemetery.

X. Father's Comments: NONE

XI. Parishioner Comments: NONE

Next Meeting: November 24, 2025 @ 7:00pm (*typically we don't have a December meeting*)

Closing Prayer: 8:27pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer