

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, September 28, 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	Dan Dinkel	(P) A
Patti Park	P (A)				

IV. Additions to Agenda: Emily mentioned to add “Webpage Rebuild” to Unfinished Business.

V. Corrections and approval of July 27, 2026 & August 24, 2026 minutes: Gary H. motion to approve minutes as presented with corrected spelling of “international” under #iGiveCatholic in August minutes; Peggy seconded. Passed 6-0.

VI. Public Discussion: None

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti:** INAAalert has been contacted multiple times. They still need to come hook up the other 4 phob readers. The only one that is working right now is the front door. Cletus made a key for all staff to enter through the other doors. It looks like Zackary Eck took care of the bat problem. Thank you, **Batman!** We haven't seen any evidence of bats since Sept. 18! EHS Athletes who attended St. Mary's are invited to eat lunch with St. Mary's students on Tues., Sept. 29. Kyleigh A. and I have a meeting in Salina on Wednesday, September 30th, concerning AI use in our schools. We will have a total of 3 scheduled meetings this year on this topic. This Friday, October 2, is EHS Homecoming Parade. St. Mary's students will walk to watch the parade, with signed parent permission. On Monday, October 5, Father will bless all the pets at 2:30pm in the Circle Drive grassy area for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The 4th graders will go to Pa's Pumpkin Patch for Ag Day on Tuesday, October 6th. We will celebrate our students with a Fall Fundraiser Reward Party at FHSU in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 7th. We plan to take an All-School Picture on Thursday, October 8th. LOFT Lunches are up and running. We had 6th grade and Kindergarten in September. We will have 3rd and 5th grade in October. Creede Repertory Theatre, from Creede, CO, will be at St. Mary's gym for a presentation on October 21. And the PreK-2nd grade will go to the Cottage Lane Pumpkin Patch on Friday, Oct. 23rd. Peggy brought up the question about keeping the ACE Scholarship opportunity on the forefront of our parents and parishioners. ACE Scholarship is a non-profit Scholarship Granting Organization that will help connect donors with students and families seeking access to Catholic education. Individuals and businesses may choose to support qualified students through SGO if they qualify for an income tax credit. Right now there is a Kansas 75% Tax Credit; a statewide cap of \$10 million in tax credits available through the program. Already, \$7.5 million has already been utilized. If one has been considering a contribution, not is the time to begin the conversation with the tax accountant. A new 100% Federal Tax Credit will be beginning January 1st, allowing an individual or business to receive a 100% federal income tax credit to SGO. This is a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit; with no cap.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** There was no September meeting. The Fall Fundraiser wrapped up on September 16th, we raised \$20,500.00 (without expenses)! We will reward the kids with a fun afternoon at FHSU on October 7th! Next meeting is October 12th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** There was no September meeting. Next meeting is set for October 12th at 7:00pm
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** *October 2nd* is Feast of the Guardian Angels, *October 4th* is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi – blessing of the pets on Monday, October 5th at 2:30pm in the circle drive. Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts will be on October 11th, hosted by Emily Mattheyer.
- e. **Parish Education Report:** We have 3 adults going through OCIA (formally known as RCIA), who meet on Thursday evenings. The Confirmation Class is getting off to a good start with the help of Peggy, using the

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f. **Maintenance Report:** Not much to report other than Zachary closed an entry where the bats may have been coming in at; which came out to be a success. He closed it on a Friday, since we had a longer weekend, he and Father knew we may have an issue with the bats that weren't "out" would be trapped inside. Definitely didn't expect to have the amount that was dealt with in the coming days. By closing off the entry way, we saved \$25,000 for the school. So far, so good, no bats have been seen!

g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handouts). Father mentioned everything was "right on track."

Closing Prayer: 7:38pm _____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer