

ST. MARY - HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The parish council meeting was called to order on 5/16/2023 at 6:30:00 PM. Members present were: Father Parker, Celia Shedd, Tammi McClain, Terri Hamm, Drew Hanlon, Larry Sauer. Guests present were: None.

The opening/closing prayer was led by Father Parker. The meeting adjourned at 7:40:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on 6/20/2023 at 6:30:00 PM.

MINUTES

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Tabled Amended * A motion to approve the minutes from the April, 2023 meeting was made by Doug and seconded by Tammi. The motion was approved with all voting aye.

Hyperlinks:

COMMITTEE/GROUP REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP

Tabled Amended * Tammi: 1) The Mass Appeal Newsletter for May 2023 was sent out. It contained SMHC scholarship winners who were Luke Huntrods, Blake Huntrods, Jace Huntrods, Kelcie Shedd, Veronica Loraditch and Estella Smith. It also contain photos of all graduations and their future plans.

Hyperlinks: [Mass Appeal Newsletter](#)

B & G

Tabled Amended * Drew: There will be a B & G meeting May 18, 2023.

Hyperlinks:

K OF C

Tabled Amended * Tammi: 1) The Knights discussed how they will disperse their annual donations. 2) Election of officers will be in July.

Hyperlinks:

OLD BUSINESS

TECH/PHONE EQUIPMENT

Tabled Amended * Technology by Lisa via email: 1) Computer replacement is mostly complete and just a few odd items remain that are outside of the original scope. 2) In regards to the phones, Kevin is having a difficult time getting both the fire and elevator company to respond with pricing on a cellular dialer. Pricing from both companies is needed before reaching out to Huxley Communications to complete the project. Doug will reach out to the Elkhart FD.

Hyperlinks:

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Tabled Amended * Terri: The training was completed and went well.

Hyperlinks:

BLOOD DRIVE

Tabled Amended * Larry: The next blood drive is May 25, 2023. Everything is ready to go. There was discussion on how we might get a little more help.

Hyperlinks:

STEEPLE REPAIR

Tabled Amended * Drew: Discussion on the least expensive fix for the steeple is ongoing. At this point we may attempt to repair it ourselves as the cost to hire some will be very expensive.

Hyperlinks:

IGNITE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Tabled Amended * Father Parker: Parish Goal = \$360,000; Parish remittance as of May 12, 2023 = \$278,960.25. About 44% of parishioners are actively paying their pledges thus far.

Parishes can use their parish share for debt retirement, capital projects, faith formation programming, operating reserve, and endowment fund creation or increase. Using parish share funds for operating expenses is not allowed. The Stewardship Office will collaborate with each parish to identify its intended use of the parish share funds. Each pastor, with parish leadership, will complete a needs-assessment form and submit it to Bishop Joensen. The Bishop's final approval of each parish's intended use of the parish share funds is required. After final approval from the Bishop on the use of parish share funds, alternative use of the funds is not permitted.

Parish funds will be distributed once 75% of the parish pledge goal is achieved. The Diocese will disburse the gifts to parishes on a quarterly basis, and payments will be based upon cash receipts. The campaign's Clergy Committee has worked with the Diocese to outline when the funds will be distributed to the parishes.

Hyperlinks: [Ignite Campaign](#)

SECURITY

Tabled Amended * A key box has been installed inside the main entrance of St. Mary's to allow entry for those who need to enter often. There has been discussion about having a Knox Box that contains a key for emergency personnel but we think that the new key box should suffice for this purpose as well. Doug will check with the fire chief.

Hyperlinks:

SANCTUARY

Tabled Amended * Further research will be conducted on the possibly of rearranging the sanctuary to the original configuration. We will look for old photographs to determine the original configuration. Father Parker will reach out to the diocese for direction and requirements. Input from parishioners will be requested prior to any final plan.

Hyperlinks:

EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Tabled Amended * Tammi: The Google on-line link that can be found in the bulletin to recognize our volunteers is open until June 2, 2023. There has only been 14 responses as of this meeting date. Barb will also note this in the bulletin for 05-27-23 through 06-04-23. The council encourages everyone to complete this form or forward in a note to Barb or a PC council member so we can recognize those who contribute to our parish. Without parishioner help it will be easy to miss someone.

Hyperlinks: [Volunteer Sign-up Form](#)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tabled Amended * Farther Parker: Father is still reviewing the diocesan review report pertaining to our present program.

Hyperlinks:

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Tabled Amended * 1)A policy will be developed to ensure that dollars donated by parishioners and others will be spent according to the wishes of the donor. 2)The council will continue to develop a policy and procedure handbook so the parish is governed in a consistent manner.

Hyperlinks:

KITCHEN

Tabled Amended * If there are ongoing events such as the K of C fish fries, the kitchen refrigerators do not need to be emptied after each event.

Hyperlinks:

ELECTIONS

Tabled Amended * Over the years there have been several different processes to seat a pastoral/parish council. These have included a discernment process, volunteers and elections to no council at all. The present council was created by a parish election process. Father Parker said that he has assisted two parishes go from an election process to a discernment process. Father prefers the discernment process as well as all council members and under his guidance we will work toward that process with communication to and input from parishioners as we proceed. To view diocesan guidelines for membership to a pastoral/parish council, click on the hyperlink below and go to page 4.

Hyperlinks: [Pastoral Council Guidelines](#)