

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, July 28, 2025 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:05pm

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				

Welcome Zachary Eck to the Parish Council!

IV. Additions to Agenda: REMOVE: Totus Tuus from Liturgy Report; ADD: Crowd-funding update to Unfinished Business

V. Correction and approval of April 28, 2025 minutes: Reviewed. Corrections: *School Report*: spelling of “process” should be “progress”, *Maintenance Report*: “handed” should be “handled”, *New Business-Election of Officers*: Brian’s name is misspelled and “anonymously” should be “unanimous.” *Parishioner Comments*: “scuffling” should be “scaffolding”. Gary moved to accept the minutes with corrections, Allen seconded, passed 6-0.

VI. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti: Staff Update:** We have offered the Assistant Cook job to an applicant. She is in the process of completing the CMG training and background check, once that is completed and approved, we can officially hire her. **Building Update:** The bathrooms are making great process. Walking Trail benches have been delivered and will be mounted in their locations soon. **Discount Cards** are still available! **Enrollment** is on Thursday, August 7, 12:00-6:00pm in the school cafeteria.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** Participated in the D of I’s “Christmas in July” Craft Fair selling chocolates and trash bags. They brought in \$344 profit from the day. The Back to School Pool Party is set for August 3rd from 6:30-8:30pm; Meet the Teacher Night is August 19th. Next Meeting is scheduled for August 11th at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Correction to the list of incoming officers: Amber Wagner will be the Vice President, not Annie Bollig. Tara Aschenbrenner will be Secretary. Next meeting is August 11th at 7:00pm.
- a. **Liturgy Report – Emily: Liturgy Report – Emily:** Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts will be on August 10th with Allen & Kim Weber hosting. On Friday, August 15th, we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation) – a vigil Mass will be offered on Thursday evening at 7:00pm and then on Friday morning at 7am & 8:10am. The Parish Office will be closed that day as well.
 - a. **Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts/Breakfast Potluck** on July 13th was a big success! We filled the church basement with guests enjoying many great dishes! Thank you to the council members who brought dishes to share and/or attend.
- b. **Parish Education Report:**
 - **Totus Tuus Recap:** we started the week with 17 students in the day session, ending with 14 students. And there were 10 students in the evening session. Registration numbers were really low this year for the daytime. Not sure of the cause. I plan to send out a survey to parishioners/school parents to fill out with choices like: out of town, not interested, other activities, etc. to help plan in the future.
 - **TRUTH Bible Study:** continues to go over very well. They are about to wrap up their first book. Alissa is planning to host a family come & go party at her house – all are welcome.
- d. **Maintenance Report:**
 - a. **South Side Door Ramp** (hand out): Father Dana and Emily both have received positive feedback for the idea. There have even been some donations given for it. It comes down now to the design

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and how much we want to spend. Different options: Aluminum vs. other materials (all cement, cement with railing, brick, limestone). Zachary said he would ask his dad for some help in bidding out the project and come back next meeting with some options.

- b. **Water Leaks.** With the wind driven rain we received last week, I went into the church attic and bell tower to check on leaks. There is a leak, obviously, above the altar. It seems to be coming in where the two buildings are connected on the east side. I'll have High Plains Roofing check it out when they come to work on the Rectory roof. The leak on the south side (the blue ceiling fixed a couple of years ago) is still there, but the "trough" that was built to catch the water is working. There was about 1/2" of water in the center. It will eventually evaporate.
 - o The *South Tower* above the choir loft leaks. There is a tin floor up there with a drain, but I believe the edges around the perimeter have rusted, so water leaks through to the inside and not drained to the outside. The area needs to be cleaned up and the edges sealed.
 - o The *Bell Tower* continues to be a problem with wind driven rain. It is not as bad as it was before the screens were built and attached to the louvers several years ago. There are four levels to the tower. The top level and third level (where the bells are) contain the louvers. That is where water mainly enters. It makes its way down to the second level (a tin floor) and to the first level (a wood floor). There is a couple of areas on the tin floor that needs to be sealed off better to prevent the water leaking to the first floor. Installing a drain on that floor to get water to the outside may help.
- e. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Father handed out the Parish Annual Report. This document will be sent in to the Diocese. We are closing out the fiscal year with just under \$20,000 deficient, compared to last fiscal year's \$40,000. With the help of watching of spending and monies coming, it has helped fill the gap. We hope to continue staying on track for next fiscal year. After some discussion, Allen motioned to accept the Parish Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2025 as presented, Gary H. seconded; passed 6-0. Signatures were then collected.
 - a. **2025-2026 Budget:** Tabled for next month. Not completed in time of meeting.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Security:** Discussion about the lock for the Church Loft door. Emily talked it over with Cheryl Lang, who utilizes the loft frequently didn't really see a concern, yet understands the safety idea behind the thought. She mentioned, the loft is not just used by the guitar choir, yet but others as well. More discussion about possibly setting up a routine walk through with the Ellis Police Department – Brian was going to look into this and report back.
- b. **Parish Directory:** On the agenda to keep it in the front of everyone's mind. Council suggested of putting a bulletin announcement in asking for volunteers to help great/organize all that it takes to put the book together.
- c. **Special Project:** Brian looked into this a little bit. Different platforms have different fees whether it's a subscription fee or a processing fee. Most commonly found was the 3% credit card fee that we would lose. This is still in the works. May be able to use it for the ramp project if needed.

VIII. New Business: NONE

IX. Father's Comments: NONE

- X. **Parishioner Comments:** Emily mentioned that Terry Zerfas had asked her to bring up the idea of fixing the platform that St. Francis statue is standing on there. He believes the metal jack has been there way too long and we need to get it fixed. He suggested asking Charlie Kinderknecht or Ed Collins for help or to gain an idea on how to fix it.

Next Meeting: August 25, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 8:10pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer