

St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes
Rectory – Monday, June 22, 2026 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order - by Brian Serpan

II. Opening Prayer - 7:02pm

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: Unfinished Business. b. Parish Security. New Business. b. Alumni Award

V. Corrections and approval of February 23, 2026 minutes: Correct spelling of “Schield” to “Shield” under f. Maintenance Report. Gary L. approved minutes as presented; Peggy seconded. Passed 7-0.

VI. Public Discussion: None

VII. Commission Reports

- a. **School Report –Patti:** We have hired a new 2nd grade teacher for the 26-27 school year – her name is Reilly Conner. We also have a new 5th grade teacher – Sue Ann Tebo. Our 1st Grade Teacher, Karla Bennett will be teaching part-time next school year. For the first semester, Stacy Befort will be teaching in the classroom part-time as well, along with a Sponsored Student teacher, Sophie Allen, who will be able to “sub” in the classroom for the first semester and after December, anywhere we need her. Mr. Cletus and Crew have been working on renovating the school library: putting new sheet rock on the walls, replacing ceiling tiles, fresh coat of paint and new flooring. New bookcases have also been ordered. Mr. Jake Dreiling ordered new basketball goals for outside, they are waiting to be installed. We still have Discount Cards available. We are placing an order of scrip cards from donations provided for Branden & Jordan Gabel family who lost their home in a fire last week.
 - **Happy 125th Birthday, St. Mary's School (Emily):** I asked for some guidance from the school organizations on helping settle on a date and activities throughout the day. We have officially set the date for Saturday, August 22nd from 6:30-9:30pm. Keeping the evening simple, we will share a meal together, have yard games, bubbles/chalk, music for those in attendance to enjoy along with raffle prizes to win throughout the evening. Pending on the donations I can collect will depend on the menu for the evening and raffle prizes given away. It is still be decided whether or not to do a “Free Will Donation” collection because the Home & School Association's Sponsorship Drive will be taking place, plus the school's Fall Fundraiser will be kicking off the next week. I'll provide more details as they get finalized next month.
- b. **Home and School Report – Patti:** We discussed continuing with the same company for our chocolate sales, trash bags and Papa Murphy for our Fall Fundraiser, which will begin August 27 through September 16th. Next meeting has been set for August 10 at 6:00pm.
- c. **School Council Report – Patti:** Next meeting has been set for August 10th at 7:00pm.
- d. **Liturgy Report – Emily:** We have Totus Tuus coming up in three weeks. The Team of 5 members will be here on July 10th for Mass to invite students who have not signed up to do so. They will then begin class sessions with our JH/HS group on Sunday, July 12th at 7:30pm-9:30pm through Thursday. The Grade School students will begin on Monday morning, July 13th at 9:00am-3:30pm through Friday. Students are encouraged to bring their own lunch and some sort of snack throughout the week to share with the group. I'm encouraging parishioners to sign-up to bring lunches and host suppers for the team. So far, I have half of the days filled. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of church beginning this weekend. I am also in search of a host family for the guys in the group, if no one offers, Fr. Dana will house them here.

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- **Second Sunday Coffee & Donuts/Breakfast Potluck:** Normally the second Sunday is Coffee & Donuts, but for July, we will be hosting a Parish Brunch Potluck with the Totus Tuus team in the church basement. We did this last year with a good turn out so thought we would try it again. Parishioners are encouraged to attend and bring a favorite dish to share. Orange Juice, Coffee and paper goods will be provided.
- e. **Parish Education Report:** Still working on a Restored Order plan for the upcoming school year.
 - **TRUTH Bible Study update:** The group has decided to take a break for the summer since of busy schedules. Alissa Rehmert, their leader, will also be moving away this summer. They hosted a nice, family farewell potluck for her a couple weekends ago. When they start gathering again in August, they plan to take turns leading the group with different topics. The first being “Church History” led by Judy Schuler.
- f. **Maintenance Report:** Rick Cunningham and work partner, Junior, repaired the paint in the church before Memorial Weekend. Bringing in their extra scaffolding, they were able to reach the really high areas to scrap and repaint the cracks. Father worked on the south tower that leads up to the choir loft. Scraping paint, repainting the walls and ceiling. After the recent rains, it appears we still have a leak above the High Altar. May cause it to leak through when there is an East wind. Father is thinking about creating a “pool” area in the attic to help decrease it from coming in the church. He has also been working at patching areas of grass in the playground area and along the walking trail. Father still has a broken window in his living quarters – planning to get it fixed up soon. There is also a gym light burnt out on the south entrance, right inside the door. He’s going to ask Rick Cunningham again to assist with this tall scaffolding. The cement parking lot is on the calendar to begin in July.
- g. **Finance Report – Fr. Dana:** (handout) Reports were given up to end of May 2026. We currently have just under \$70,000 raise for the cement parking lot project. Another \$5,000 was moved over from memorial donations to help. We do have some funds in the Church Restoration Funds that could be used to complete the project, but we rather not use all of those funds in case another project/issue arises. All in all, both church and school could end the year on budget or below budget.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Cemetery – North Addition:** Gary Luea has been in touch with Llyod Dorzweiler to get a second survey done on the north addition. Once that is completed, Gary L. hopes to gather the committee together and start working on getting a plan in order.
- b. **Security:** A small group of selected parishioners has been formed and will meet later this week to brainstorm what the next steps for this group is. If anyone would like to be a part of this group, they are to reach out to Brian Serpan. Gary L. expressed his feelings about keeping the choir loft door shut and locked. If it’s open, or parties who use the choir loft are not in agreeance of using the lock, they we wasted funds to make it secure.

IX. New Business:

- a. **Election of Officers:** No action needs to be taken this meeting but know what Nancy Cunningham will need to take a year off in order to serve again. We thank you for your dedication to the parish council over the past 6 years, Nancy! Gary L, Gary H and Allen have the option to step down or run another term. There will be an announcement in the bulletin about discerning members of the parish to serve on Parish Council. We will plan to elect officers at next month’s meeting.
 - Nancy (2020) – 6 years – she will need to take a year off before serving again, per bylaws
 - Brian (2022) – 4 years
 - Gary L, Gary H & Allen (2023) – 3 years – they all could choose to run another term, if not, then we will need to fill their position.
 - Peggy & Curtis (2024) – 2 years
 - Zachary (2025) – 1 year

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- b. EHS Alumni Award:** For the first time ever, the Ellis High School Alumni recognized the teachers, the nuns, who used to teach at St. Mary's School at this year's Alumni Banquet and presented our school with the plaque. Mrs. Peggy Seibel was so inducted into the Teacher Hall of Fame for her 24 years of teaching at St. Mary's School!

X. Father's Comments: Bats are still "hanging" around in the school. One may need to inspect the attic in the gym to see if there is a space they could be getting in.

XI. Parishioner Comments: None.

Next Meeting: July 27, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Closing Prayer: 7:55pm

_____ Minutes taken by Emily Mattheyer