

**CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK – EDINA
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
OCTOBER 9, 2025**

Members Present: Fr. Kuss, Allison Schmidt, Andy Piazza, Julie Schnell, Kathy Koehler, Terry Kapsen; **Members via Zoom:** Bill Schnobrich; **Members Absent:** Jim Swanke

Key Takeaways

- **Mandatory Campaign:** St. Patrick's and all parishes in the Archdiocese must participate in its Capital Campaign (Jan–Jun 2026), with a goal of **\$1,450,000 raised over 5 years and a return to St. Patrick's of \$870,000, if goal is reached.**
- **Parish Funding:** The parish receives **60% of all funds raised**, up to the goal. This structure incentivizes achievement of the goal, as the parish receives a substantial portion even if it falls short.
- **Final Priorities:** The campaign will fund three bundled initiatives: **Safety** (sidewalks, security cameras), **Future** (St. Patrick's Endowment), and **Outreach** (e.g., mission scholarships).
- **Critical Clarification:** The "Annual Archdiocesan Service Appeal" no longer returns a percentage of funds to parishes. This must be clearly communicated to parishioners to avoid confusion and safeguard the capital campaign.

Topics

Archdiocese Capital Campaign Mandate

- **Requirement:** Participation is mandatory for all parishes.
- **Timeline:** Active fundraising commitment period is Jan–Jun 2026, with the main push from March–June.
- **Goal:** Pledge Goal set by the Archdiocese of \$1,450,000
 - This figure is based on a national average of 60% of a parish's annual offertory.
- **Parish Share:** St. Patrick's receives **60% of all funds raised**, up to the \$870k goal.
 - Funds are disbursed quarterly as pledges are paid.
 - Pledge fulfillment is typically ~90%, minimizing parish follow-up.

Defining Parish Priorities

- The group reviewed a list of potential projects to determine the campaign's major focus.
- **Initial Ideas Discussed:**
 - Security system (cameras)
 - Mission trip scholarships
 - "Elder space" remodel
 - Celtic Center coffee shop
 - Outdoor "Stage on the Green"
 - HVAC/boilers
 - Altar "accessibility ramp"
- **Rationale for Exclusions:**
 - **Elder Space & Altar Ramp:** Can be funded with current cash; not large enough for a capital campaign.
 - **Stage on the Green:** High cost (\$100k+), limited seasonal use, and ongoing maintenance make it impractical.
 - **Solar Panels:** Technology is not yet cost-effective; long payback period and high maintenance.

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Final Priorities & Rationale

- The group consolidated projects into three compelling themes to simplify “the ask” for parishioners.
- **1. Safety & Security:**
 - **Sidewalks:** Repairing uneven sidewalks is a critical safety issue for all parishioners.
 - **Security System:** Installing cameras provides protection against vandalism and theft and enhances safety during events.
- **2. Future & Endowment:**
 - **Endowment Fund:** A long-term investment to ensure the parish's financial stability.
 - **Rationale:** The fund's annual earnings (e.g., ~\$4k last year) provide a reliable, ongoing revenue stream.
- **3. Outreach & Mission:**
 - **Mission Trip Scholarships:** Enables parish members (e.g., high schoolers) to participate in trips (e.g., Guatemala), fostering a connection to the wider church.
 - **Rationale:** This initiative is "fun" and aligns with the parish's mission to look beyond its own walls.

Campaign Logistics & Leadership

- **Leadership Structure:**
 - **Campaign Director:** SDS Carissa (CCS)
 - **Parish Leads:** Pastor + a Campaign Leader (TBD)
 - **Campaign Chairs:** 2–4 individuals/couples.
 - **Action:** Recruit 4 chairs to distribute the workload. Training is in mid-Jan 2026.
 - **Leadership Committee:** 20–40 individuals/couples.
 - **Commitment:** Weekly meetings from Jan–Jun 2026.
- **Fundraising Approach:**
 - **Pledges:** Can be paid over the 5-year campaign period.
 - **Pastor's Stance:** Tithing is the first responsibility; the campaign is a secondary "extended offering."

Garage Sale Results

- **Revenue:** ~\$87,000
- **Profit:** ~\$82,000 (pre-final expenses)
- **Next Steps:** Sell high-value items (e.g., Stickley rocker) on online marketplaces to increase profit.

Next Steps

- **Fr. Kuss:**
 - Submit the final priority list (Safety, Future, Outreach) to the Archdiocese.
 - Clarify the timeline for recruiting campaign chairs and the mid-January training.
 - Communicate that the Annual Archdiocesan Service Appeal no longer returns funds to parishes.
- **Terry K & PC Members:**
 - Compile a list of potential campaign chairs and committee members by December.
- **Parish Council:**
 - Meet in November to review progress.
 - No December meeting and in January begin capital campaign.