

**Church of St Patrick
Parish Council
SUMMARY MINUTES: May 9, 2024**

Members Present: Fr Kuss, Terry Kapsen, Lisa Romain, Roseanne Strand, Grace Hanson, Allison Schmidt, Bernadette Daly, Brian Brown & Cappy Moore; **Members Present via Zoom:** Zach Neuman, Jim Swanke, & Bill Schnobrich; **Members Not Present:** Ivan Pittaluga, Andy Piazza, Mike Weibel, Daniel Farris, & Jim Wangen.

CALL TO ORDER – Terry K

OPENING PRAYER – Fr. K

SUMMARY MINUTES FROM APRIL 11TH MEETING – Approved by the Council

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FAITH FORMATION – Fr. K

- 1) Father discussed plans to collaborate with Our Lady of Grace (OLG) parish following a meeting with Fr. Finnegan, their pastor, on confirmation and youth ministry programs. Fr. K is seeking a committee to help develop a joint program that meets the needs of 7th and 8th grade students. Catholic students at the Edina High School (EHS) belong to the Church of St. Patrick and OLG, for which both parishes are co-responsible for their faith formation. Because of our proximity to EHS, the possibility of hosting Holy Day Masses and other religious and social activities (e.g., small group discussions) for the students could be one way to share that responsibility, rather than hiring another youth minister right away.
- 2) Father pointed out that we are not about to lose our identity as a parish, but we need a plan to meet the needs of both students and parents and use our respective charisms because youth formation the past 10, 20, and 40 years has changed quite dramatically.

COMMENTS FROM TITHING REVIEW (MAY 1ST SPECIAL PC MEETING) – Fr. K

- 1) Father thanked the parish council for its input which spanned from “A to Z” and discussed the need to better inform parishioners on their responsibility to financially support their parish. Father is researching how other parishes have done this, not just now but looking forward. He needs more time, prayer, and reflection, and before anything would be rolled out. Father will seek the council’s input again and plans to meet with the archbishop.
- 2) In a draft of St. Pat’s strategic plan, the parish council aims to increase the percentage of households regularly contributing from ~60% to 90% over the next 3 years. The council is also exploring added resources and programs on stewardship (time, talents and treasure) to incorporate into our parish.

MONTHLY REVIEW OF PARISH EVENTS

- 1) **Women’s Club Events - Cappy M**
 - a) **Current & Upcoming Events**
 - i) **Women’s Bible Study just finished successful 1st session; resumes in September after the Garage Sale.**
 - ii) **Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show (May 19th) Expecting good participation and a fun event.**
 - iii) **Second Friday Hospitality after Mass (Bell Choir to host May 10th)**
 - iv) **Women’s Club Weekend (June 8th & 9th promoting greater awareness and participation for all women of the parish)**

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- v) **2025 Lenten Retreat – Deacon Art Miller (Promotion will begin in the October-November, both internally to our parishioners and externally to other local churches); It will begin with a Sat/Sun Homily followed by a 3-day Retreat Mon-Wed morning with more specific forthcoming.**
- vi) **The Women’s Club is looking to formalize its successful tri-chair leadership in the years ahead.**
- 2) Men’s Club Events – Terry K (for Andy P)**
 - a) **Upcoming Events**
 - i) **Men’s Club Social/Fellowship Event (May 16th 6-8 pm)**
 - ii) **St. Patrick’s Fall Clean-Up (Timing TBD)**
- 3) All Parish Events – Cappy M & Terry K**
 - i) **New Parishioner Brunch (Twice/Year with next newcomers’ brunch mid-October)**
 - ii) **All Parish Mass with Confirmands Recognition, Fr. Kuss’ 40th Anniversary of Ordination, and Father’s Day Celebration (June 16th); Plans to keep clean up easy using compostable dinnerware are underway.**
- 4) 2024 Garage Sale Co-Chairs – Chuck G, Ilona K, & Cheri U; Ilona requesting 100% participation of the Parish Council; need Ilona’s input and on the roles required (e.g., Saturday/Sunday to bag up leftovers); consider supporting other charitable organizations with what remains after the sale; need to identify a replacement for Jim Glick (relocating to Milwaukee in May) to manage all financial aspects of the garage sale; a couple names were suggested for consideration.**
- 5) Liturgical & Other Events – Fr. K**
 - i) **First Holy Communion (May 5th) 16 children received their First Communion.**
 - ii) **Sunday 5 pm Mass Pauses for Summer (After May 19th).**
 - iii) **Confirmation at the Basilica (June 9th) 8 will be confirmed and Cynthia Biros has stepped in to help with the final preparations.**

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – Strat Plan Subgroup, Terry K

- i) **The strategic planning team presented draft objectives for the first year of the 3-year plan, including: 1) Increasing the number of new households and families, 2) Helping parishioners better understand their responsibilities to financially support the Church, 3) Enhancing faith formation across all age groups, and 4) Developing a volunteer and leadership pipeline. The council provided feedback and discussed next steps.**
- ii) **Modifications to Objectives – Clarified wording of first year goals and reduced targets for the next three years involving growth of family households at St. Patrick’s from 900 to 800 (currently 600 households).**

FINANCE UPDATE & STATUS OF ENDOWMENT MATCH - Jim S

- i) **Jim provided an update on our financial position, noting the parish is in a strong financial position with healthy liquidity and additions to the endowment fund. He highlighted the success of recent fundraising efforts and the parish's financial health compared with other local churches. An eighteen-thousand-dollar match for new donations made**

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to the permanent endowment is over 67% complete and helps fund the parish through dividends it generates. The liquidity fund is discretionary, used by the pastor and staff as needed and remains strong. We expect a tremendous year overall for the parish!

NEW BUSINESS: Fr. K

- i) More modern furniture will arrive for the Celtic Center in the coming weeks to enhance comfort and encourage conversation. Father also suggested a couple of capital improvements to add more space in the church for families with small children and to level an area of dedicated pews to make it more accessible for those in wheelchairs.
- ii) He is also interested in building a stage “on the Green” for music and plays. Schools, and other groups, might even rent the space to use it. Father is researching and gathering information on this idea and considering adding an area to grill food on the grounds.
- iii) Fr. K proposed the parish council take a “summer break” for July and August, which was enthusiastically received.

CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT
