

Church of St. Patrick - Edina

Parish Council Meeting Summary - March 12, 2026

Members Present: Fr. Kuss, Michelle Hannan, Andy Piazza, Roseanne Strand, Terry Kapsen

Members via Zoom: Kathy Koehler, Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Grace Hanson

Members Not Present: Julie Schnell, Allison Schmidt,

Meeting Purpose

Review parish priorities, updates, and future plans.

Key Takeaways

- **Capital Campaign:** The capital campaign launch has been rescheduled to March 21–22 due to forecasted snowstorm. Low volunteer response (2/15 emails) is straining the core team, prompting plans for direct phone calls.
- **Parish Growth:** New family growth is strong (21 families in first half), driven by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) and the welcoming atmosphere. However, the number of contributing households for offertory fell from 397 in 2024 to 361 in the 2025 calendar year.
- **Youth Ministry:** The Little Flower Guild (25 members) is ready to support youth ministry, but a proposed part-time youth minister role was rejected. The parish will first focus on building a core group of teens before expanding.
- **Financial Health:** Liquidity remains strong at 7.5 months. The offertory is down ~\$18.5k since July 1, but total income is up \$56k, thanks to strong financial management.

Topics

Opening & Approval of Minutes - ALL

- Fr. K opened with a prayer.
- The Summary of the February 12th meeting minutes were found to have referenced Our Lady of Grace rather than The Church of St. Patrick in the Youth Ministry section. The minutes were approved and the error will be corrected.

Capital Campaign – Fr. Kuss

- **Launch:** Rescheduled to March 21–22.
 - **Rationale:** Avoid low participation from a forecasted snowstorm.
 - **Contingency:** A recorded message may be sent to all households to ensure a consistent message.

- **Volunteer Engagement:** Low capital campaign volunteer response is causing some stress for the existing core team.
 - **Example:** Kathy and Kevin Koehler received only 2 replies from 15 emails.
 - **Action:** The team will begin direct phone calls to recruit more help.
- **Parishioner Events:**
 - **March 17 (6:30 PM):** Campaign Q&A session for parishioners.
 - **March 24:** Another Q&A session. Sarah Hardie will lead, as Fr. Kuss has a procedure the next day.
- **New Communication Card:** A card from Tom Hoedeman was reviewed to update parishioner contact info. Fr. Kuss will discuss its use with Sarah Hardie.

Parish Financials & Administration – Jim S

- **Liquidity:** Very strong at 7.5 months.
- **Offertory:** Down ~\$18.5k since July 1.
 - **Action:** Fr. Kuss will remind parishioners of the difference between a tithe (offertory) and an offering (campaign) to maintain regular giving.
- **Total Income:** Up \$56k since July 1, offsetting the offertory decline.
- **Envelope Packets: Kathy K/Fr. Kuss/Bill S**
 - **Issue:** Extra envelopes for items like flowers are redundant, as these are already in the budget.
 - **Decision:** Keep the envelopes. They are part of a fixed-cost package, and the flower envelopes help fund a planned increase in Easter flower purchases.
 - **Action:** Fr. Kuss will add a bulletin announcement for Easter flower donations, as the designated envelope is from January.
- **New Staff:** Cate Evert started as the administrative assistant for Fr. Kuss on Monday.

Parish Growth & Engagement – Terry K

- **New Families (OBJECTIVE 5):**
 - **Status:** 21 families in H1 2026 (51% of the 42-family annual goal).
 - **Driver:** CGS program and a welcoming atmosphere are attracting young families.
 - **Feedback:** New parishioners appreciate the community and friendly outreach.
- **Contributing Households (OBJECTIVE 6):**
 - **Trend:** Contributing households (>\$250) fell from 397 in 2024 to 361 in 2025.

- **Context:** This decline may reflect economic struggles and an aging congregation, as new families often experience different financial conditions.
- **Youth Ministry: Roseanne S/Fr. Kuss**
 - **Little Flower Guild:** 25 members are ready to support youth ministry, aligning with their mission statement.
 - **Youth Minister Proposal:** A proposal from Our Lady of Grace's youth minister for a part-time role was rejected.
 - **Rationale:** St. Pat's lacks the core group of teens (currently 3-4) needed to sustain a dynamic program. The focus is on building a strong foundation first.
- **Easter Egg Hunt: Fr. Kuss**
 - **Problem:** Zero sign-ups for the upcoming hunt.
 - **Action:** Fr. Kuss will make an announcement at Sunday Masses to participate in the children's event.

Men's Club & Garage Sale – Andy P

- **Men's Club Events:**
 - **May 13:** Steak & Cigar Dinner. The Men's Club leadership will determine the chef's bandwidth and form the number of guests at their March 31 meeting.
 - **May 21:** Annual Membership Meeting (pizza & beer) to introduce new officers and the upcoming year's plans.
- **Garage Sale Setup:**
 - **Proposal:** Set up light plastic tables on Sunday, August 9, after Mass.
 - **Rationale:** It's more efficient to set up before the donated merchandise arrives.
 - **Action:** Andy will present the proposal at the next Men's Club meeting.
- **Closing (57 minutes)**