

Church of St. Patrick – Edina
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Summary
September 11, 2025

Members Present: Fr. Kuss, Allison Schmidt, Andy Piazza, Julie Schnell, Kathy Koehler, Terry Kapsen.

Members via Zoom: Bill Schnobrich, Brian Brown

Members Not Present: Jim Swanke, Grace Hanson.

Objectives: Discuss pastoral council updates, upcoming events, and parish priorities for the Church St. Patrick.

Key Takeaways

- The parish council is seeking to fill three open positions: Vice Chair, Secretary, and At-Large Representatives
- St. Patrick's Garage Sale was successful with good volunteer turnout; some security/pricing issues arose after some buyers removed tags; will gather input from volunteers to share suggestions and ways to improve the process.
- Several facility upgrades completed including sound system, atrium construction for our growing "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd", in addition to repairs and restriping for the east and west parking lots.
- New initiatives planned: Monthly Food Club events, Veterans Day Display, and engaging youth participation at Mass and encouraging children of the parish to contribute non-perishable food during the offertory collection.

Opening & Approval of Minutes

- Fr. K opened with a prayer.
- Minutes from the June 12th meeting were approved following Andy P's clarification that the Men's Club "Pasta Dinner", will be Tuesday January 24, 2026.

Topics

Update on Archdiocese "Capital Campaign" – Fr. K

- Met at Pastoral Center and provided an overview but not much information.
- Financial Goal has been set for St. Patrick's Parish and to start in January of 2026, not much time for planning. Will need more information related to identifying volunteers, contacting parishioners, emails, etc. More details in October.

St. Patrick's Capital Needs – Fr. K:

- Mechanicals (e.g. Furnace/Air Conditioner replacements, not IF but WHEN... ~\$312K and fire panel replacement \$5.8K); Patching and redoing sidewalks with cracks (~\$55K); 2020 endowment fund (~\$154K) with disbursement limited to 4%/year; security system (many windows throughout the church campus)... strategies are being considered for improvements of safety.
- Met with Edina Police Dept. following Annunciation Parish shooting; we have many windows and 30 doors; changing all locks.

“State of the Parish”

- Financials Report by Jim S after weekend Masses; Fr. K to speak on tithing, offerings, and alms giving.

Liturgical Ministries Fair – Last weekend of September and first weekend of October

- Goal to attract more volunteers in all ministries this year!

Events & Fundraisers

- Fall Fundraisers (October 18th and 25th) have been postponed due to staff time and lack of volunteers. Planning to recruit team leaders in January 2026 to plan for a Gala Event in December 2026.

Parish Council Recruitment – Terry K

- Three open positions need to be filled ASAP: Vice Chair, Secretary, and At-Large Representative
 - Difficulty recruiting younger members due to family commitments; considering mid-life parishioners who may be more available and engaged.
 - Suggestion made to explore recent parish graduates of the Catechetical Institute as potential candidates.

Faith Formation Update Fr. K

- Over thirty children currently enrolled in the “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” (CGS) programs.
- We have only five 8th grade students for Confirmation this year and will again be partnering with Our Lady of Grace (OLG) for Confirmation preparation.
- New initiative: 7:15 AM Youth Mass at St. Patrick's on the fourth Tuesday of each month, for all Edina High and Middle School students, followed by donuts and beverages before classes begin.

Garage Sale Recap – Fr. K/Terry K

- One of the larger volunteer turnouts prior to and during the garage sale, but significantly short-staffed on the last day of the sale (Saturday afternoon) for teardown, tables, and clothing racks back to storage, and post-sale cleanup.
- Final financial results will be released when expenses and bank balances are finalized.
- Some security issues identified with theft and tag tampering
- Suggestions for improvement:
 - Dedicated setup day for tables
 - Better security/monitoring strategies
 - Photo catalog of high-value items
 - Special pre-sale for local first responders

Women's Club Events – Julie S

- Monthly Food Club, happy hours, and potlucks planned.
- Ignatian Spirituality Series in October (\$20/person)
- Second Friday Hospitality each month after Mass

Men's Club Updates – Andy P

- Fence painting project on September 20th.
- Assisting with Veterans Day display on November 9th
- Planning social event to watch Thursday Night Football in November

Facility Updates – Bill S

- Sound system completed
- Atrium construction finished
- Parking lot cracks filled and re-striped.
- New cleaning service hired, seeking additional custodian/mechanic.

Liturgical Changes – Fr. K

- Planning to add statue of our newest 15-year-old saint, Carlos Acutis, to our church; inviting young children to bring up non-perishable food donations to a basket on the altar during the offertory collection

Closing & Blessing

- Fr. K closed with a blessing.

Next Steps

- Continue recruiting efforts for open parish council positions.
- Implement security improvements for next year's garage sale.
- Launch of new Food Club and spiritual events as planned.
- Complete remaining facility projects (sound panels, HVAC)
- Introducing new liturgical elements (Saint statue, children's offerings)
- Distribute annual parish report with updates and objectives