

**Church of St Patrick**  
**Parish Council**  
**SUMMARY MINUTES: January 23, 2025**

**Members Present:** Fr Kuss, Terry Kapsen, Roseanne Strand, Mike Weibel, Zach Neuman, Allison Schmidt, Cappy Moore

**Members Present via Zoom:** Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke, Lisa Romain, Grace Hansen, Bernadette Daly, Andy Piazza

**November 14 Meeting's Minutes**

Correction: Fr Kuss was not present.

**Updates from Fr Kuss**

- **Garage Sale**
  - A few co-chairs and department leaders are looking to retire from their roles. Fr Kuss encouraged Parish Council members to seek out new parishioners who would be willing to take over these positions, especially the Chair and Co-Chair. We will need to contact all the parishioners to invite them to get involved in a variety of ways with the 2025 Garage Sale.
  - Fr. K suggested reducing hours of the Sale to target the time buyers that work during the day and unable to shop evenings.
  - He also questioned the amount of time and money spent on preparing meals for the volunteers. We could simplify some of the menus. He is happy about the camaraderie, but overall, it's a significant cost both in time and money.
  - Terry K said he would contact past team leaders and make sure they plan to continue or possibly assume one of the Chair or Co-Chairs positions.
- **Fall Festival – (formerly known as Oktoberfest)**
  - Attendance was low, and we lost money.
  - He suggested a simpler Fall event. We could organize a group attending a High School football game. Allison said she would be on board to help with this, as she has an EHS student. Tailgating could be a part of the gathering. This goes well with Fr Kuss' wish to develop more of a relationship with the High School students.
- **Upcoming Trip to Europe**
  - Fr. K has a 4-week study trip to Europe coming up in late October- mid November.
- **Winter Dazzle**
  - The proceeds were \$42,000. Attendance was low.
  - Should we work to improve this event? Does it exclude too many parishioners who find it too expensive?
  - Bill S pointed out that the Parish needs this income to support other parish expenses.
  - Could we have a different kind of fundraising event that is less expensive?
  - Andy P said the Men's Club had discussed holding a fundraiser in conjunction with the St. Patrick Day Festival.
  - Cappy M talked about a past event we held called "Evening for Brighter Tomorrows." To keep the price down, parishioners prepared the food.
  - It was decided to develop a less expensive fundraiser to take place on October 25.

**Women's Club - Cappy M**

- Much planning and effort has been invested in the upcoming Lenten Retreat at the Church of St. Patrick. It will be led by Deacon Art Miller, and it is called "Pilgrims of Hope." The planning group will be meeting with staff from 20 Parishes in the area to promote this event. They also are sending letters to non-Catholic churches to invite them to join in the retreat. Deacon Miller will be interviewed on Relevant Radio.

- The upcoming bible study will be based on the book called “Eight Day Retreat with Pope Francis.” It lends itself well for participants to reflect and share with each other. Cappy wondered if the Parish could offer gatherings with any other parishioners to discuss the book during Lent.
- The Women’s Club will hold another Happy Hour and a Potluck Dinner, both of which have been extraordinarily successful. The Potlucks may even replace the Sunday meetings. The Spring Luncheon is also coming up and at this time they will be announcing the Tri-Chairs who will be taking over.
- Roseanne S and Marjean Weis are hosting a Potluck for the Parish on February 20.

### **Men’s Club - Andy P**

- A Pasta Dinner is taking place on February 1. About forty have signed up so far, with Sunday being the last day to do so.
- The annual Fish Dinner is coming up on March 21.
- Helping with the summer concerts and the Parish campus yard work is on the horizon.
- There are potential plans to have a Happy Hour on February 27.
- Volunteers from the Men’s Club will help take down the Diorama in February.

### **Faith Formation Updates - Zach N and Allison S**

- Allison S says everything is going well with the High School students and Confirmation.
- Zach N spoke with Cinthia. First Reconciliation takes place on March 1, and First Communion will happen in May. New children have signed up for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- Fr K will be sending a letter out to parents of young children to encourage them to have their children take part in the youth programs, so that they become more prepared to receive the upcoming Sacraments.
- Fr. K said there is a plan to remove two walls to create two rooms with more space to conduct the various levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes.
- Father was recently at OLG with the seventh graders and their Confirmation sponsors.
- On Feb. 2, he will be going to the Cathedral with the eighth graders for a tour.

### **Operations Update - Bill S**

- We are in the bid process on several projects. These include an updated sound system, repairs to the fire alarm system, and removal of the two walls mentioned earlier. He has no hard numbers to share just yet.

### **Finance Update - Jim S**

- Currently our Parish is ahead of in its FY 2024/2025 budget. Expenses have been managed well. Our liquidity ratio is about 7 months; originally the goal was 6 months. We currently are in a good place.

### **Other Updates – Terry K**

- Terry presented a document laying out the Constitution and By-Laws.
  - There could be some opportunities we could take advantage of in updating our constitution and by-laws and some requirements where we are not completely aligned with the Archdiocese. Terry laid out a few of those details. Fr K noted that certain requirements and needs of managing a large versus smaller Parish can vary.
  - We soon need to fill the open Vice-Chair and At-Large positions on the Parish Council.

**Next meeting Feb. 13**

**8:00 pm Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain**