

**Church of St Patrick**  
**Parish Council**  
**MINUTES: August 8, 2024**

**Members Present:** Fr Kuss, Terry Kapsen, Jim Swanke, Ivan Pittaluga, Grace Hansen, Roseanne Strand, Lisa Romain, Bernadette Daly, Andy Piazza, Cappy Moore

**Members Present via Zoom:** Bill Schnobrich, Zach Neuman

**Members Not Present:** Allison Schmidt, Mike Weibel, Daniel Farris

**July 13 Meeting's Minutes Approved**

**Updates From Fr Kuss**

- The Church tabernacle is in need of repair. We could explore the cost of refurbishing the current one or Fr. Kuss has found an older gilded tabernacle in storage, perhaps from one of the earlier St. Patrick churches. The Council agreed that it's worth looking into refurbishing it because of its connection to our parish history. Another option is to explore the cost of a new one.
- Fr Kuss is looking into building an outdoor structure on "The Green". It's a large, beautiful, underused space. The structure would be off the ground, with a roof, and have electric power. It could be rented for outdoor concerts, plays, presentations, etc. It's also a good way to welcome nonmembers into our community. Bill S is working on getting bids.
- The south side of the Celtic Center is now filled with empty book shelves. One option is to leave it as is. Removal would require new paint and carpet, or vinyl flooring. (The vinyl flooring may be more practical than carpet.) We could leave the new walls empty, or relocate a statue of St Francis (from the chapel) on one side, and a large TV monitor on the other to display parish announcements, etc.
- Regarding Youth Ministry:
  - The Confirmation program will align with Our Lady of Grace (OLG) in content, materials, and schedule. Various functions will be jointly held at St. Patricks and OLG for all to attend. Parents will be involved with some of the classes. We currently have one instructor, and need a second. We are also in need of four small group leaders. Fr Kuss does not plan on hiring a youth minister this year and this cooperation between the two parishes will be a pilot to see how the year goes. Last year there were not many participants. OLG's numbers are down as well, so it makes sense to combine the programs.
  - Fr Kuss is open to having an early Mass periodically or on Holy Days for all OLG and St Patrick's high school students either before school starts or even during the lunch hour. Cappy M mentioned that Uber will not deliver lunches to the High School, but they would to St Patricks. We could have a room available where they could congregate and enjoy snacks and conversation in the morning, or during the lunch hour.
- An 18-month calendar of parish activities and events will soon be completed. Fr Kuss updated the "welcome letter" that all new parishioners will receive.

- Fr Kuss pointed out that the Parish Ministries sign up has not yet been finalized for this Fall. Rosanne S is trying to set up a Liturgy Committee meeting since last year no new Eucharistic Ministers signed up.
- Also, a few members on the Parish Council have served in their current role for more than two years. Recruiting new members of the council is encouraged.

### **Rapid Fire - New Business and Key Updates**

- Terry and Zach presented the "Strategic Priorities Summary" that will go into the '23-'24 Parish Financials for parishioners to review. The Financial Summary is planned to be published late in August or early September.

### **Garage Sale**

- Parish Council members have been asked to call new parishioners and invite them to participate in the Garage Sale.
- Terry specified what tasks parish council members have been asked to do both at the beginning and end of the sale.
- They were also encouraged to make a financial donation to support lunches for the volunteers and other costs (e.g., dumpsters, etc.).
- Ivan P suggested that the Parish Council discuss the best way this Garage Sale can be managed in future years.

### **Women's Club - Cappy M**

- There was a good gathering at the latest meeting. It was agreed that no dues will be collected and that all women are members. A vote was taken, and it was unanimously decided that the club does not have a fundraising role. The club will support what the Parish does in their fundraising. The focus is more on community and having fun together while growing spiritually.
  - A women's Bible Study begins October 1. It will be a 6-week study on the Book of Timothy.
  - 30+ women met with Fr Kuss at the Rectory.
  - Those women, 50-years old and under, will meet in the Celtic Center, with wine and hors d'oeuvres.
  - Work on an All Parish Lenten Retreat is in the works and promoted to other parishes will be invited to participate.
  - A Happy Hour will take place once every two months at local restaurants. A trip to Canterbury Downs, and visiting Christmas light displays will be forthcoming.

### **Men's Club- Andy P**

- Plans for the Fall Festival are in the works.
- Men's Club grilled food for the Softball team recently.
- They have been helping with the Garage Sale, and will continue to do so.
- The Men's Club has put in a lot of work on groundskeeping for the parish..
- There will be a social gathering at Tom Ries' house on October 24th.

- Men's Club will be involved with an upcoming winter fundraising event, formerly known as the "Gala".
- A pasta dinner sponsored by the Men's Club is planned for February 1, 2025 and they will have a Lenten Fish Dinner final date to be determined.

#### **Updates from Bill S**

- We recently repaired the Holy Water Font. It cost about \$4000.

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

- We are very close to having our 2023-2024 fiscal year financials done. Our liquidity is in good shape. We are in the black for the year ending June 30th.
- Jim S will soon present a report to the Parish.

**Next meeting Sept. 12**

**8:10 Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain**