

Church of St. Patrick – Edina

Pastoral Council Meeting Summary – April 9, 2026

Members Present: Fr. Kuss, Michelle Hannan, Grace Hanson, Kathy Koehler, Andy Piazza, Sue Holmes (for Julie Schnell), Roseanne Strand, Terry Kapsen

Members via Zoom: None

Members Not Present: Allison Schmidt, Bill Schnobrich, Jim Swanke

Meeting Purpose

Review parish activities, finances, and the archdiocesan capital campaign.

Opening & Approval of Minutes

- Fr. Kuss opened with a prayer.
- Minutes for the March 12th meeting were approved, after correcting a typographical error.

Key Takeaways

- **Youth Outreach:** Discovered a successful, student-led Bible study at Edina High School ("Garden in Manhattan"). The parish may support this organic effort directly by asking the students what they need, rather than creating a new program of our own.
- **Parish Database:** To clean up the outdated parish database, info cards will be distributed after Mass, with a prize drawing to incentivize participation.
- **Financial Health:** Contributions are stable at 70% parish participation, below the 80% goal but not as low as previously thought.
- **New Hire:** Cate Evert is the new Administrative Assistant, selected for her experience, maturity, and non-parishioner status.

Topics

Capital Campaign

- **Objective:** For the Church of St. Patrick, the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign is doing better than expected at this point and at 31% of our given goal.
- **Parish Use of Funds:** Security cameras, lighting, sidewalk repairs, the parish endowment fund, and financial support to other internal accounts, is accepted well by the parish.
- **Outreach Strategy:**
 - **Focus:** Encourage parishioner-giving above their regular tithe.
 - **Tone:** Emphasize generous giving, not "sacrificial giving."
- **Ending Soon:** The formal end to the archdiocese's second wave of parishes for its "Lord, Renew Your Church" ends June 30, 2026, followed by the remaining Catholic churches throughout the 185 parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Parish Updates

- At this time, the Church Directory is not planned to be reprinted for privacy concerns and costs.
- Open Parish Council positions to be filled are Vice Chair, Secretary, and At Large, beginning July 1, 2026.
- Decision to pass on a small Grant Program offered by CCF (Nathan Kennedy) since the Church of St. Patrick would not fall into the criteria for needy parishes within the archdiocese.

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Youth Ministry

- **Discovery:** A successful, student-led Bible study at Edina High School, named "Garden in Manhattan," meets Thursdays at 7:30 AM with ~40-100 students weekly. This organic, student-driven model is highly effective and addresses the spiritual yearning of many youth in our communities.
- **Strategy:** Listen and support their existing efforts in spirituality and through our community.
- **Action:** Ask the student leaders how the Church of St. Patrick can help them and support what they need.
- **Ideas:**
 - Place a supportive message on the Valley View sign on Thursday mornings.
 - Provide food (donuts, etc.) for their bible studies and meetings.
 - The Little Flower Guild can help fundraise.
- **Related Request:** Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) requested funds for pizza for their April 14-16 event at the high school.

Parish Administration & Facilities

- **New Hire:** Cate Evert is the new Administrative Assistant.
 - Selected for her experience, maturity, and non-parishioner status, which avoids the risk of losing both an employee and a parishioner if a conflict arises.
- **Database Cleanup:** To update the outdated parish database, info cards will be distributed after Mass.
 - Incentive: A prize drawing will be held for completed cards to encourage participation.
- **Facilities:**
 - Celtic Center Stucco: The mildew issue needs assessment. Power washing is dangerous if the surface is EIFS (a plaster-type system with weep holes), as it can force water into the wall.
 - Custodial Service: The 5-day/week service is performing well and saves money compared to a full-time employee.

Parish Group Updates

- **Women's Club:**
 - Recent Events: Happy Hour (25 attendees) was successful.
 - Veep Drive: Lower turnout was due to a short collection window (1 week vs. 1 month last year).
 - Leadership: Social Director Chris Whedon is stepping down; activities will slow for summer.
- **Men's Club:**
 - Steak & Cigar Dinner: May 13th (30 slots, past attendees get first dibs).
 - Annual Meeting: May 21st (beer/pizza, officer elections for July start).
 - Summer Plans: Happy hour, concerts (dates TBD), and landscaping duties coordinated by Tom Gabrick.
- **Garage Sale:**
 - **Planning:** First meeting in mid-May to coordinate team volunteers and schedule.
 - **Donations:** Direct donations for lunches to Ilona, not the office, to manage Deanne's workload.
 - **Participation:** All council members are encouraged to volunteer; the Men's Club will also help fund volunteer lunches.

Liturgical & Community Events

- **May Procession:** A May procession for Mary will be held on First Holy Communion Sunday.
 - Plan: First Communicants process with flowers → June Piazza (or Melissa) will crown the Mary statue.
 - Coordination: Fr. Kuss will contact Cynthia (First Communion coordinator) and copy the council.
- **Spaghetti Dinner:** A vegetarian spaghetti dinner is being considered for a summer Saturday evening after Mass.

Adjourn & Closing Prayer