

Finance Council Minutes

St. John the Baptist Parish, Seymour / May 6, 2025

Present: Father Sengole, Dennis Dercks, Paula Helms, Kevin Reese, Debbie Rusch, Dan VanBoxtel, Margie Marcks

Absent: Deacon Rich Matuszak

Meeting began in prayer.

Minutes from the March 11 meeting were approved by Dennis Dercks, seconded by Kevin Reese.

Building & Grounds

Fire Alarm System – The State Fire Inspector issued instructions that the existing fire alarm system will not have to be repaired or replaced. Instead, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors are to be placed around the building. Eight detectors have been purchased and installed.

Home-School Group – The group is done renting classrooms/gym for the school year. They are preparing to return for the 2025-2026 school year. This year was a very positive experience – for all parties.

Cemetery Report – A lawn mower and trailer 400 have been purchased – under budget.

There are approximately 65 old-style desks in storage that have not been used for at least eight years. Discussion involved offering the desks to parish members, as well as having Lee Rynish check with recycling businesses to see if the desks could be used for scrap metal – if they would take them.

Budget Report – Paula Helms presented the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Discussion that followed involved informing parishioners that the parish is short \$40,000 on this proposed budget. No. 1 goal is to gain more parishioners to help maintain the budget/building repairs that will be needed, as well as getting more people involved in giving monthly. Currently, of 400 parishioners, only 200 contribute on a regular basis.

Other ideas to lighten the budget would be to ask the Christian Women to take over the donuts social held after church and hold it once a month, instead of twice a month. Another thought is that the Cemetery Committee should be paying part of Lee Rynish's salary. He puts in 32 hours per week between plowing snow in the winter and mowing in the summer.

The Pastoral Council/Finance Council will also work on a "Needs" list, which will be published in the church bulletin, as well as sending letters to parishioners with the list and asking for monthly donations. Currently, there are several small restricted funds, which the Council would like to re-direct to a fund for "General Use" asking people to give to this fund which would be used as needed. This would involve putting appreciation thank you's in the bulletin for the support.

At this time, the "Needs" list would include a fire-proof safe, a fire-proof file cabinet, rosaries (which would be discussed with the Pastoral Council) and a new printer. It was questioned how much is actually printed each month in the office -- which does not include the bulletin as it is printed and paid for via ads. It may be more cost effective buying a new printer, then contracting with a printing firm to maintain the current printer. Options will be looked into by the secretary.

Paula will meet with Penny Schampers to finalize and present the budget to the Parish Council before the Finance Council votes to finalize the budget – via e-mail.

The newly appointed Building and Grounds Committee would like to meet with the Finance Council as to the Council's expectations regarding their role in the parish. Dan Van Boxtel will meet with them to discuss bringing forward a long-range plan for the parish and any financial needs to the Council. Attendance at the Finance Council bi-monthly meetings would only be for updates.

Debbie Rusch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Kevin Reese.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday, August 19, 2025**. Closing Prayer.