

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 23, 2025

ATTENDED: Joe Bonacci, Fran Cummings, Trudy Edgington, Flavia Feltner, Father Rafa Ghattas, Deacon Bob Jones, Red McDowell, Bill New, Nancy New, Mike Niermann, Jim Whiteman

NOT ATTENDED: Liz Hackett, Lisa McLeod

Opening Prayer: Father Rafa

Church: Father Rafa

- **The Giving Tree**
 - Tree will go up November 29/30, Ornaments will be placed for weekend of December 6/7. Ornaments will have tags with various church needs that parishioners can donate to.
- **Goal for I Give Catholic, where are we?**
 - Goal of \$25K has been reached with donations from 27 families.
 - Father to speak to parishioners - we appreciate your weekly offerings but this is a special campaign and we need more participation from our parishioners, even if it is only a small amount.
 - **Asbestos** has been contained and the project is complete
 - **Pressure wash windows of the church** - Mike to do on the 13th
 - **Mass Booklets**
 - Vote on Bifold or Trifold - Bi-fold has been voted for the mass booklets

School: Karen Durand

- I Give Catholic goal of \$50K is at 27% with 25 donors. This money will be used for tuition assistance.
- The most meaningful gift is \$22.62 that came from two sisters who broke their piggy Bank.
- 3 families created their own giving day pages
- Students have donated
- \$13,411 and 25 donors
- #igc money goes towards tuition assistance

Admin: Flavia Feltner

- **Next meeting** - 4th Sunday of January
- **Meetings 2026** - 12:00pm 4th Sunday of each month - will send schedule out.
- **Outcome of Ministry Weekend** - too dark on Saturday - lots of interest - not full commitment, bakes sale took away from ministries
- **Christmas Concert Status** - concert is going well, people need to get tickets before they run out.
- **Website** - Mike Niermann asked for Council page with contact info and minutes to be created on the website

Women's Guild: Sr. Trudy Edgington

- **Replacing the oven in the hall kitchen/How did the bake sale do?**
 - Professionals will need to remove the oven
 - Mike to meet with the fire department with removal
 - Karen to connect Adrain and Mike to get fire department to look at it.
- **Bake Sale:** raised money to go towards #igivecatholic and/ or giving tree

Maintenance: Mike Niermann

- All heat pump air filters need to be replaced. We have air filters for 6 months

- Ground maintenance crew from St. Clare will be here on December 6
- Grounds Maintenance day for December 13, 2025 for 2 hours - cleaning weeds, raking up pine straw, cleaning up heat pump area, etc. 6-7 volunteers to attend.
- Will try and pressure wash the windows and replace the lights before the Christmas Concert.

Council: Jim Whiteman

- **Traditional Latin Mass**
 - Controlled by Diocese, Stella Marris is the only authorized Parish to have one.
 - Reason- parishes strayed from the guidelines.
- **Parking on Grass**
 - In an effort to reduce parking congestion around the church.
 - We can park on grass in front of Hall, some prefer not to because of mud.
- **Shoulder Surgery** - Jim to be in a sling for 6-8 weeks. - Flavia to possibly cover January Meeting
- **Needlework above the altar:** Red McDowell
 - The needlework above the altar can be removed.
 - no wall damage exists behind the drapes, but the curtain rods would have to be removed as
 - Possible discoloration on the wall might will require repainting.
- **Closing prayer**

- **Upcoming Church Events**

- There was a *Volunteer Appreciation Beer and Wine Social* on November 1st for all parishioners and to thank our many wonderful Church and School volunteers.
- There will be a Ministry Weekend on November 15-16. Ministry tables will be out for people to inquire and sign up.
- Our Annual Lessons and Carols will be held December 7, 2025 at 6pm. This well loved event will include both our Parish Choir and Saintly Singers. Information on tickets will come soon.
- Starting in January 2026, we will be adding a 3rd mass on Sunday mornings and changing the time of our Saturday afternoon mass. Details will be given soon.

- **Christ Life**

- This is a program the council is considering kicking off during lent that is for All catholics from fallen away to devout. More information to come.

- **#igivecatholic and Fundraising**
 - This will be kicked off November 2 at church with information and giving envelopes in the Bulletin.
 - There will be scheduled posts on Facebook and Instagram
 - Both Father and Karen will do fun things as benchmarks are reached
 - Anything the church raises over \$25K will be donated to the school.
 - Funds will go to Church Improvements
- **Saint John School**
 - The Fall Festival was a great success
 - Karen Durand showed the council updated renderings of the new school
 - Trunk or Treat was on October 31 after school
 - The International Dinner and STREAM night was a success with over 100 people in attendance.
- **Maintenance**
 - The ADA bathroom is complete
 - After multiple rounds of testing, no asbestos was found in the Parish Hall
 - The council is looking into options for a new oven for the Parish Hall
 - We have lowered our HVAC service support from \$2200 per month to \$300 per month.