

**St. Patrick's Catholic Church — Pastoral Council Minutes**  
October 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. | Commons, St. Patrick Catholic Church

**Present:** Amy Tomlyanovich, Bill Ludwig, Christine Guevara, Cody Vanasse, Dan Koenigsfeld, Dianne Layton, Donna Bash, Monica Boyer, Steve Hanson, Adam Schaefer (School Board), Fr. Ivan Nienhaus (Pastor), Marilyn Voorhees (Finance Council)

**Absent:** Joe Sevcik and Faith Formation representative

1. Call to Order + Opening Prayer
  - The meeting was called to order by Monica Boyer at 6:32 p.m.
  - Council members recited the Pastoral Council Prayer, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. Approval of August meeting minutes
  - Motion by Marilyn to approve the August Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Dianne. Motion carried unanimously.
3. *Journey in Faith* update – Diane Flaherty, St. Patrick *Journey in Faith* Team Chair
  - Diane gave a brief overview of this past Sunday's *Journey in Faith* meeting. There were 18 tables occupied at the meeting, with approximately 110 people. There were some questions about errors in the data gathered by the archdiocese. People had questions such as, "Could there be adoration in the parishes that do not have weekend Mass?" "Livestreaming?" "Parkersburg?" People were encouraged to come to the next meeting on November 13 and also to visit the [journeyinfaith.org](https://journeyinfaith.org) website and give feedback. Diane was asked to inform the archdiocese that we will have to install a large screen in the basement for an overflow crowd if we are limited to two weekend Masses.
4. Committee Minutes Review/Other Reports:
  - Finance Council – *October minutes*
    - **School Board update:** Enrollment is about what was expected. Day care numbers are up, and staff has been hired for that. May need a 5th/6th staff member because the school didn't hire an interventionist.
    - **School Finances:** Iowa Education Savings Account (ESA) funds will arrive in October; cash flow is better now with the ESA funds. Now we are investigating whether we might use SCRIP for other purposes, such as lunch money. Principal Wiebers answered questions about the income statement posed by Marilyn.

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There was discussion about the timing of reports and about leftover COVID money.

- **Parish Finances:** The loan from the archdiocese is paid in full - just one more interest payment to make in October. Justin answered Marilyn's questions about miscellaneous restricted donations and Office/Postage/Env/Tech. We will be seeking 3 bids to pave the new lot. September income was much higher due to a \$45,000 donation from a non-parishioner. Justin submitted the archdiocesan annual report on time. The parish and school annual reports were approved and will be posted on our website.
- **Foundation for the Future Update:** Pledges and receipts total over \$1.3 million, with \$50,000 in outstanding pledges.
- **Journey in Faith:** Discussion of the information shared in September.
- **Haiti:** At the time of this Finance Council meeting, nothing has been dispersed since the last meeting.
- Next meeting Nov 11.
- During the parish council meeting Marilyn gave a summary report of the above information and answered questions.
- **Faith Formation – September & October minutes**
  - **Becca Koresh** was appointed as committee chair and **Lisa Veit** was appointed as secretary.
  - Fr. Ivan spoke about upcoming **Journey in Faith** sessions. Members were asked to encourage all parishioners to attend Mass regularly in October for the official counts that will be sent to the archdiocese. Members were also asked to encourage others to attend the two *Journey in Faith* meetings scheduled for October 19 and November 13. All who have feedback to share can do so by visiting the *Journey in Faith* website at [dbqjourneyinfaith.org](http://dbqjourneyinfaith.org).
  - The committee began a discussion on ways they can support parish **home school groups**; discussions will continue at the December meeting.
  - The committee is looking at materials such as the **MagnifiKid! Bulletin** to help kids engage in faith activities during Mass.
  - **Monica Miller** (K-6 program): Faith Formation sessions are held on Mondays 4:15-6:15; Tuesdays 4:00-5:30, 6:00-7:30; Wednesdays 2:00-3:30, 4:00-5:30, 6:00-8:00; and Thursdays 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Toddler and Level 1 only). CGS Level 1 training started in September and will continue Nov 7-9, Feb 13-15, and March 25-29. A CGS parent meeting was held on Oct 15. 6th grade students have been rolled into the 7-8 group due to numbers.
  - **Kate Mauss** (7-12 program): JH sessions on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 could benefit from a couple more adult volunteers. Continuing preparations for NCYC

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(Nov 20-23). A spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held Sept 13. Confirmation retreat is scheduled for October 26.

- **Gen Staudt** (Young Adult Ministry): Starting a fall book club on *Pray For Us: 75 Saints Who Sinned, Suffered, and Struggled on Their Way to Holiness*. 2nd Fridays dinner & discussion nights. 4th Saturdays holy hours in the church. One social event per month -- chili cookoff will be held Oct 18.
- **Deacon Al Weber** (adult faith formation): Fall study *The Wild Goose* begins Oct 7; altar server training in October. There are many adults interested in joining the church through Catholic Faith for Adults (CFFA).
- The committee has yet to select a representative to attend the pastoral council meetings. The next Faith Formation Committee meeting will be Dec 11 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Social Justice – September minutes**
  - The **Matthew 25** Food Pantry served 55 households in July and 52 in August. Donations to Matthew 25 have increased since the bulletin appeal.
  - **Blessing Bag** project: toiletries & personal items are being collected for distribution to the homeless during Advent. **Giving Tree** project: During the week of Nov 17 trees will be set up at church. Parishioners can select an ornament and donate a gift which will be delivered by House of Hope.
  - **Community Meals** served 167 people in July, 148 in August and 142 in September.
  - **Cedar Valley Bridges Out of Poverty** project: Tim will organize a meeting to discuss the project.
  - There is a growing need in the Cedar Valley area for **grant writers** to assist nonprofit organizations.
  - **Haiti Committee**: Tim Boller communicates regularly via WhatsApp with Fr. Michel Raynold at St. John Bosco parish in Haiti. Quarterly funds from our parish help support the school, clinic and special projects. With the \$4,000 they received from us in August, \$1,800 went to the cafeteria, \$1,300 for teacher salaries and \$600 for supplies for the clinic. The school has 98 students in preschool and 243 in grades 1-6. The Haiti Committee voted to send \$3,000 this last quarter of 2025. The committee is considering a donation to help the parish buy 3 or 4 water filters at \$500 each. The Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (PTPA) is a non-profit that facilitates relationships between Catholic parishes in the US and Haiti. Our Haiti committee supports spending \$500 to register for the PTPA pilot program which will support teams visiting their sister/twin parishes. The next meeting of the Haiti committee will be held on December 9.

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- Christine answered questions about the above information.
- Liturgy – *September minutes*
  - **Arts and Environment:** (Jackie) Will put pictures in windows last week of October.
  - **Mass of Remembrance** is November 2 at 11:30.
  - **Communion ministers:** (Jane) Started ministers of the cup at Saturday Mass.
  - **Hospitality:** (Donna) Just one opening for this period.
  - **Lectors:** (Diane) One left, otherwise all is good. New lector books are in Mary's office.
  - **Music:** (Mary) New young choir members. Parish is very fortunate to have the musicians we have. Elliot and Casey will be conducting while Mary recuperates.
  - **Sacristans:** (Sara) Two new
  - **Servers:** (Al) Training schedule has been in bulletin. School sent out information. Parents of 4th and 5th graders were sent emails with information (222).
  - **Mission:** (Diane) Received a \$5,000 grant from the Archdiocese. Fr. James Sullivan will speak at weekend masses & have evening presentations for 3 nights.
  - **Journey in Faith:** meetings scheduled for Oct 19 and Nov 13
  - Next meeting Oct 28
- School Board – *July & August minutes*
  - **July Hiring:** Katelyn Bolander (K), Leah Neverman (3rd/4th), Christopher Johnson (7-8 SS & ELA plus 5-8 Tech), Jill Fritz (Bus Driver), Dolores Ughetti (Lunchroom), Kristin Olmstead (Kindergarten Aide).
  - **Other July business:** Reports were given and financials approved. The resignation of board member Lisa Ahern was accepted. Committee assignments were established. The 2025 Parent/Student Handbook was approved. Updates were given on the playground, phone/intercom system, and other facilities concerns. Current enrollment is 53 preschool and 199 K-8.
  - At the August meeting teacher Reps **Beth Stone** and **Pam Schmitt** gave a report.
  - **August Principal's report:** In 2025-26 we are monitoring Math curriculum, implementing new Religion curriculum, reviewing Reading/ELA, planning for Social Studies and accessing Science. A facilities update was given and a discussion of increased safety measures for school Masses.
  - **Other August business:** financials were approved; by-laws were approved; various board policies were approved; updates to the Parent/Student Handbook were approved.
  - Next meeting Nov 17.
  - Adam gave a short summary of the above information and answered questions. He added that at the September school board meeting there was discussion

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about enrollment and capacity and that the CVCS board is looking at various safety options.

- Marketing – *September-October report*
  - Fall picnic (Sept), Fall Festival (Oct), and the 2nd apparel sale (Oct)
  - *Journey in Faith* announcements and reminders
  - Weekly bulletin, Facebook posts and parish website
  - Upcoming events: Litany of Remembrance/photos for All Souls on Nov 2; and the Knights' Vocations Dinner and the Catholic Daughters' Chili Sale on Nov 8; New Members' Coffee & Donuts Nov 16 after 9:30 Mass
- Property and Campaign – *update to be shared at meeting*
  - Cody reported that we have a green light to proceed with the design of the parking lot. A schematic drawing has been approved by the city. We would like to have all the bids for the project by the end of November. The main question at this point is do we want a smaller lot or a bigger lot?
- Parish Life – *Fall Festival update*
  - Justin doesn't have all the details yet. The parish brought in about \$30,000 in revenue; expenses are not yet calculated. Fr. Ivan wondered how this year's ticket sales compared to last year.
- Legacy Society – *Not currently active, no update*

#### 5. Comments, concerns, questions

- Dan asked if we know where the 17 new families came from -- did they move to the area or did they already live here?
- There was further conversation about *Journey in Faith*.

#### 6. Closing Prayer + Adjourn

- At 7:42 p.m. Marilyn made a motion to adjourn. Second by Diane. Motion carried unanimously.
- Closing prayer: Fr. Ivan offered a spontaneous prayer.
- Next meeting November 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Hanson

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