

Minutes:St. Mary Parish Council Mtg, Dec 1, 2025; 6:30pm; Parish Center;(subject to approval next mtg)

1. Opening Prayer was said
2. Roll Call: Present: Fr. Paul, Beth Sadewasser, Gerald Bormann, Adam Scherbring, Larry Wille, Jessie Young, Jim Schlueter, Wendy Shea. Absent: Lois Bries, Erin Schmelzer
3. Approve Agenda: Motion by Gerald/2<sup>nd</sup> Jessie to approve the agenda with the addition of Discuss 175 yr Celebration of St. Mary's Parish; all in favor; motion carried
4. Approve Minutes of previous meeting: Motion by Larry/2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerald to approve minutes of prev meeting; all in favor; motion carried.
5. Communications/Guests - None
6. Executive report – Fr. Paul reported on JIF. Across the diocese there were over 5000 feedback submissions. Priest mtgs regarding JIF have been scheduled for Feb 3 and April 10; On April 16, there will be a meeting with priests and staff.
7. Liturgy report- Wendy Shea reported Becky Shaffer is now scheduling the readers and that help is needed on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> to decorate the church.
8. Stewardship report – Jessie Young reported that Faith Formation had a food booth for the holiday train. They raised approx. \$350 with Erin donating the supplies.
9. Parish Life report – Lois Bries was absent but Beth read her report – last coffee/donuts was not well attended; YM kids will help pass out Christmas books; Scripture study being planned for Feb 2026.
10. Social Concerns report - Gerald Bormann reported he distributed bibles and 33 days of Eucharistic glory books to the jail; They put 150 tags on the giving tree.
11. Faith Formation report – Erin Schmelzer absent but sent in report: Attendance has been good. 1st-12th grade we have a total of 84 students. Blessed with 17 teachers/volunteers sharing their time away from their own families to educate our parish youth, and help them grown in the Catholic community. Students 3rd-12th grade will complete confessions this month. Confirmation students will be helping with food pantry at St Johns this month. Youth will lead Christmas Eve Mass like they have past years. We will continue on with classes into the new year after a short break end of the month
12. Finance Committee report – Jim Schlueter reported the parish will be giving \$100 in Guttenberg Bucks to Faith Formation teachers/helpers in Dec. Building report card is in process; making monthly payments of \$5000 to the rectory roof loan; White Dove Electronics recently added 2 additional speakers under choir loft, new amplifier in choir loft and rebalanced the sound system—favorable comments have been received regarding this;
13. Old Business
  - i) Soccer Field: Results of vote: Yes: 94; No: 14; some parishioners left comments and those were read to the council; Discussion took place and Beth asked each council member to provide their feelings – Adam felt the property should be sold with money put in in a restricted fund to be used for building maintenance/upkeep. Larry provided a document indicating his thoughts which were not to sell at this time; Gerald, Jessie and Beth are on the fence; Jim is not in favor of selling; Fr. Paul indicated we should have patience and not sell at this time as this is an asset of the parish; Wendy indicated we should wait if there is not a strong financial need to sell at this time; Motion by Adam/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessie to table any action at this time but keep on the agenda; all were in favor; motion carried. Beth urged the council to pray over this.
  - b) Fall Fundraiser – put \$10,000 toward Rectory Roof Down payment; \$6227 left in the account
  - c) Rectory Roof – delay in work due to Asbestos contractor; Jaeger Assoc will pay interest charges until work can begin – looking for a period of dry weather with temps above 30 degrees.
  - d) Sale of Convent—50x100 Lot has been surveyed; Parish to provide easement to sidewalk for use by FOSM; will meet with Planning/Zoning Board; working on writing up legal documents
14. New Business
  - a) 175 Years of St. Mary Parish in 2026: Maybe have a celebration in June; Directory was suggested; motion by Adam/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessie to create a pictorial directory. All were in favor; motion carried.
15. Closing Prayer was said
16. Next meeting, December 22, 6:30pm
17. Motion to adjourn made by Gerald/2<sup>nd</sup> Jim; all in favor; motion carried; adjourned 8:02pm.