

# Parish Council Minutes April 9, 2025, 7:00 PM

Present: Maude McCarthy, Kristin Kupper, Fr. Padgett, Joe Weis, Clay Murphy, Annie McDonald, Zak McKinley

## Respect Life Committee – Sam DunLany

- Goal is to educate parishioners about the Church's teachings on pro life issues and to encourage action
- Encourage parishioners to pray special novenas.

## Chair Report – Maude McCarthy

- Minutes from the March meeting were passed.
- Next meeting, 5/13/25, Maude will be out of town. She asked if we could move it to the week before, but due to scheduling issues we were not able to.

## Business Manager – Kristin Kupper

- St. James is beginning a new fundraiser to fund projects around the Church such as work on the organ, repairs to the roof, painting, and work on the sound system.
  - Terry McDonald, John Martin, and Mike Polio are leading this project.
  - Donations will be tied into Mothers' Day.
  - Payments can be made over 2 years.
  - Donors can have the option to have their name on the walls of St. James.
  - St. Brigid may hold a similar fundraiser in the future.
- New accountant is helping.
- Maintenance
  - The Roof at St. Brigid has been repaired. St. James's is being worked on by Highland Roofing.
  - AC is out in the school auditorium. Gregg B. is working on a grant to fix it.
  - New mulch and flowers will be completed at both Churches for Easter.
- Budget
  - Contributions are down at both parishes. We have lost some big donors.
  - May have to do a stewardship "catch up" at the end of the year.
- New Members
  - We have several new members at both parishes.
  - We need to come up with ways to involve them in parish activities – possibly have different groups sponsor the coffee and donuts after Masses to make connections.

- Fish Frys are down – Fr. Gary believes the novelty is wearing off and people are less interested. This is being seen at many parishes across the diocese.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Fr. Gary met with the archbishop and expressed his desire to remain with our parishes after he retires. Archbishop Fabre understands and will take it into account.
- School
  - Fr. Wants to begin a school committee consisting of Maude McCarthy, Kristin Kupper, Gregg B, Fr. Gary, 1 member from parish council, and 1 member from finance council.
  - This committee will discuss a new position within the school focused on recruitment who will report to Fr. Gary.
  - Funding from this new position came from a donor.
  - Maude is working on a new Facebook page to showcase the school. We do not have access to the old page. Maude will work with teachers to get pictures of classroom activities.
- Safety
  - Both parishes have a new agreement with LMPD. New signs are placed in the front windows letting people know to not trespass or they will be arrested.
  - Parishioners are informed to not engage with the trespasser, rather call the listed LMPD number in the sign.
  - We have had several incidents involving people becoming aggressive.
  - The biggest issues have occurred outside where door locking would not have helped.
  - The parish council voted unanimously to approve the new LMPD signs.

Next meeting is May 13, 2025