

St. Matthew Parish Council Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2025

6:45 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Tom Dempsey

Roll Call:

In attendance: Jenny Bruce, Betsy Burke, Tom Dempsey, Chris Dobrota, Rick Gale, Christine Gann, Tom Jones, Bob Kowal, Phyllis Mahoney, Mary Marsh, Nick McCallum, Dan Murphy, Victor Neff, Pat O'Brien, Father Bill Stumpf, Ann Tully, Beth Wissler.

Absent: Beth DeSalvo.

Words from the President

Pat O'Brien noted how wonderful the parish mission was. Council members all agreed that Father Ron Hoyer was well-received. Tom Dempsey said they were looking to put him in the rotation for future missions.

Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

Parish Capital Campaign Update

We should know something in May about the grant for the architectural plans. We've applied for a grant for half the cost. David Smock took the lead on the grant application.

Search for Parish Council members

Rick Gale said we have several people who have expressed interest in joining the council, including at least one who ran last year. We may have four people for two open spots. We can discern or we can have an election.

Father asked if we might at some point in the future consider moving the council shifts from July to closer to the start of the school year, perhaps electing in August and starting in September.

The council voted to do a discernment process this year.

Parish Pastoral Plan

Communications:

Ann Tully said Stephen Sulka was good with moving forward with a communications committee. Pat O'Brien asked if there is anyone in particular who should be on the committee. Ann said definitely someone from the school should be. Ann said Stephen has a survey ready to send to parishioners about communications and one question is if people would be willing to serve on a committee.

Nick McCallum and Dan Murphy said they would be happy to be on the committee. Phyllis Mahoney said she would help with execution of communications work for the parish.

Youth Ministry:

The council also discussed how we could assist in furthering Pam Fleming's work with the youth ministries.

The Teaching Mass:

Father said originally we were going to celebrate a teaching Mass during Lent, but it didn't work out due to other events during that time. Now we are planning for June for the initial teaching Mass at weekend Masses.

Commissions

Haiti news

Bob Kowal said Pere Max had a good visit. Pere Max said he is being reassigned by his bishop.

The Roof

We were going to reshingle the school and chapel during spring break, but it rained. Then it rolled into school testing followed by high wind. They've now discovered some of the roofing of the chapel had been done wrong, so there are a few more repairs. In the future we will not count on finishing something in a week. A project of that scope will have to be done during the summer. Father said the school has been great in dealing with the interruptions.

Cathedral update

Beth Wissler brought some statistics about St. Matthew alumni at Cathedral. She said 54 St. Matthew alumni are at Cathedral now. Of the graduating class, two of the St. Matthew graduates are summa cum laude and one is magna cum laude. Beth said one of her concerns is to see St. Matthew students perform better on the high school placement test, particularly in math. COVID-19 hurt math scores everywhere.

Father's remarks

Father said priests in the North Deanery said there were large numbers of people at Masses for Easter, including at St. Matthew.

Closing prayer

Nick McCallum

