

**ST. STEPHEN
PARISH COUNCIL
OCTOBER 10, 2024**

Present:

Ron Blaha
Dr. Jim Ford
Joe Kinsella
John & Mary Sullivan

Excused/Absent:

Donna Bella
Lynn & Phil DiSalvo
Jennifer Knapp
Randy Stroik

- I. Prayer - Meeting began with prayer at 6:02 p.m.
- II. Old Business:
 - A. Centennial/Inspired by the Spirit/Notre Dame Center
 1. Fr. Hennes shared that we are trying to wrap up the Centennial Campaign by sending letters to those with remaining balances.
 2. Inspired by the Spirit continues to be in the redemption phase. The amount pledged was \$736,377.17; the amount paid was \$480,819.99, and we have \$398,878.01 in our Inspired by the Spirit Account.
 3. Notre Dame Center. We have contacted contractors for pricing. Altmann Construction has given us a bid of just over \$1,000,000. Marawood Construction was also contacted, but we are awaiting a reply, we hope to hear from them soon.
 4. At this point, we plan to begin in 2025 or 2026. However, we recognize that we may need to do additional fundraising to complete the finishing touches.
 - B. Chimes
 1. The funding is secured; We are waiting to hear back from Chimemaster
 - C. Staffing
 1. Kristi has been in her new role for a few months.
 2. Father shared that Wendy Voss was hired as our receptionist and that she is a great addition to the team.
 3. Our part-time school custodian position remains open. Unfortunately, the hiring process has taken longer than anticipated.
 4. Our Organist, Katie Wroblewski, is playing at the Monday Masses.
 - D. Handout and Review of Parish Mission Statement
 1. Ron shared a plan, but we need to have more discussion. A number of people were not able to attend, so we will share the handout with them. We will review the document further and look for one item that might become our first focus.
 - a) This plan will be shared with all through email. Please review this document and be prepared for more discussion at the next meeting.
 2. Parish Ministry Fair - we will discuss further at future meetings.
 - E. Hymnals
 1. Most of the hymnals have been sponsored.
 2. If there are remaining unsponsored hymnals, we will probably fill those with sponsorships for former Pastors.
- III. New Business

A. Diocesan Annual Appeal

1. Our goal for the next year is \$48,845.
2. We will kick off the appeal last weekend in October.
3. In discussion with the Finance Council, we brainstormed ways to encourage participation.
 - a) One idea was to raffle off a \$25 Scrip card to participants monthly.
 - b) A second idea was that if we could meet the goal by the end of January, we would host a spaghetti dinner in February for all who have made pledges. Father will personally provide the beverages.
 - c) The consensus was that it was worth a shot to try.

B. Pilgrimage

1. Father is working on details for an October 2025 pilgrimage to Rome and Italy. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

C. BSA/Girl Scouts

1. We have been hosts for the Scouts for many years. Due to recent events, the Diocese is reviewing whether to continue that partnership. We are currently waiting for more information.

IV. Committees

A. Sacred Worship:

1. The group has not met for a bit, but there is a meeting coming up at the end of the month. The biggest upcoming item is hymnals.

B. Education:

1. CCD is off to a great start. Confirmation prep student classes begin this Sunday. Youth Ministry is growing, and Christine is working on monthly Middle and High School events. In October, there will be Corn Maze dates for each group. We are working on the Lenten Mission with Fr. Sakowski. We are also looking at a gift for the parish at Christmas.

C. Buildings and Grounds:

1. A representative from WPS stopped by Wednesday to discuss the issue of the low-hanging wire that must be addressed. We were led to believe in the past that St. Stephen owned the pole, but the pole is owned by WPS. As we do the Notre Dame project, some cables may be buried.
2. We continue to look for a school custodian.

D. Family Life:

1. Phil is looking into hosting a February spaghetti dinner for the DAA.

E. Justice and Peace:

1. Through a generous donor, parish members participated in the First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center fundraising dinner.
2. We recently collected money for Hurricane Helene. Between the two parishes, we were able to donate over \$5,000.
3. The blood drive was successful, but they did not have the 30 donors we hoped for, but we had 18. We will be trying again in January. St. Joe's will again host the drive due to accessibility. Hope to hold a blood drive on campus once Notre Dame Center opens

V. Next Meeting - Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Kristi will share the packet and date with all members.

VI. Closing Prayer