

**St. Stanislaus Church
Parish Council Minutes
January 16, 2024**

Monsignor David Cox called the meeting to order and led the council with an opening prayer.

Council Members Present: Pat Mingucci, Eric Jaegers, Lisa Ashcraft, Tim Hagenhoff, Betty Kever, and Sue Rackers. **Absent:** Emily Mantle, Pam Stonner; **Special guests:** Tina Forbis, St. Stanislaus School Principal, Gary and Dana Wilbers

Minutes: The minutes from October 17, 2023, were approved by all.

Stewardship: Gary and Dana Wilbers provided an update relating to the Stewardship Committee. Since the Committee was formed, they have provided information on the stewardship model through informational meetings, messages in the Bulletin, and Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR) Packet Distribution. Key takeaways for parishioners include:

- Most parishioners pay less through this model.
- In most cases, the parish pays less to the diocese using this model.
- All donations, even if identified for a specific service, count as income to the church.
- Diocesan donations provide services to parishes such as pastoral ministries, vocations, marriage preparation and annulment services, Catholic Charities, and other services. Additional information can be found on the diocesan website.
- Approximately 26% of parish families returned CSR packets.
- Approximately 26% of school families returned CSR packets.

Stewardship Committee has the following plans for 2024:

- Establish an annual theme for stewardship. In 2024 - "Vitalize Our Parish".
- Survey parishioners.
- On the first Tuesday of every month, opportunities for Faith, Food and Fellowship will be available. Approximately 40 people attended the first event. Leaders of parish ministry teams are especially encouraged to attend and invite others to attend. The next event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd.
- Celebrate sacraments by sending gifts recognizing baptisms, weddings, etc.
- Activate a welcome committee for new parishioners. The committee anticipates phone calls to new members and providing a welcome packet containing parish information and opportunities.
- Introduction of a Liturgy of the Word which will offer services similar to Sunday school.
- Formation of a youth group
- Exploration of a software package to better connect with parishioners.
- The Committee also encourages all parishioners to welcome new members when opportunities arise, introduce themselves to new faces at mass, and spread the good news about our wonderful parish.

The Wilbers left the meeting.

Knights of Columbus Property: The Knights of Columbus approached the parish about purchasing a property which adjoins parish property. Monsignor inquired with the council on support of this purchase. Discussion followed with concerns about what may happen to the property if not purchased by the Parish, cost of potential repairs/rent, and security concerns. The Knights are acquiring two appraisals of the property and will provide the parish with the first opportunity to purchase the property. The council indicated support of the potential purchase.

Fundraising: The Universal Catholic Church has a policy on transparency in fundraising. In response to that policy, there is a diocesan decree instituting transparency in fundraising. For fundraising opportunities that will likely make \$10,000 or more, a form needs to be completed and submitted to the diocese for approval. The diocese indicates:

The purpose of these norms is to ensure that: (1) Fundraising appeals are truthful and forthright, theologically sound, and strive to motivate the faithful to a greater love of God and neighbor; (2) Fundraising efforts are for defined, articulated, needs; (3) The relationship of trust between donor and fundraiser is always maintained, therefore: (a) funds collected must be used for their intended purposes; (b) funds collected are not absorbed by excessive fundraising costs, and; (4) Donors are informed regarding the use of donated funds and assured that any restrictions on the use of the funds by the donor will be honored.

If approval is given for an annual event, approval can roll over each year moving forward.

Adoration Chapel: The chapel family is looking for new members. Many of the participants in our adoration chapel have been involved since it's inception. Some of these long-committed members are experiencing health issues and are unable to fulfill an hour. Parishioners are encouraged to consider taking an hour or inviting others to participate. The chapel and continuous adoration has resulted in many blessings to our parish. Monsignor will mention this at upcoming weekend masses to encourage participation.

Parish Improvements List: Jude Markway spent some time evaluating updates and needs for maintenance of the parish grounds and provided a list to the council (attached). One of the Missouri State Agencies provides a service to help prioritize lists such as this one, and Pat is working on that piece. He will bring that advisement back to the council. There was discussion around increasing construction costs and timing of improvements/repairs and potential revival of the Dream Team. The Dream Team was comprised of a list of mostly retired parishioners who volunteered their services for repairs to parish facilities. Tina also added, Dale Meeks is conducting a self-study of St. Stanislaus School on March 10 – 12 which could result in additional items/findings.

Parish Directory: The last date to take parish pictures or submit pictures has passed. Parish staff will move forward with finalization of the parish book.

St. Stanislaus School Update: Tina Forbis provided the school report:

- St. Stanislaus currently has 177 children enrolled. Registration for the next school year is scheduled in February. The school is working toward making some changes in the registration process such as confirming parents have completed Virtus training and confirmation of parish membership.
- A 3-year old class has been added.
- The school is going to embark on a process to become a blue ribbon school through the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. This program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.
- Items that will be discussed with the Finance Council include the addition of a full-time counselor, increased hours for the art teacher and resource teacher, and improved smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and monitoring system. Future needs could include increasing the number of cameras at the school which record at all times instead of motion detected recording.

Upcoming Meeting: The next normal scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday March 19th. Monsignor Cox led the council with a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Rackers