

Parish Council Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

- I. Attendance
 - Present: Brian Berger, Joan Brueggemeier, Ty Buesgens (Vice-Chair), Susan Cole (Secretary), Dan Flynn, James Fogarty, Father Kaluza, Greg O'Brien, Allen Schmitz (Chair) and Renee Schultz
 - Absent: Mike Buchanan, Ginny Morgan and Bob Smith
- II. Opening Prayer – Father
- III. Approval of Minutes – add to prior minutes Greg O'Brien is a member of Church Flooring Committee
- IV. Synod Small Groups – Renee reported the series "The Chosen" season 1 will be offered on Wednesday evenings beginning March 26, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
- V. Synod the Mass – Archdiocese is offering online 4 new sessions during Lent until the Be My Witness Assembly on June 7th.
- VI. Church Flooring Project – The committee held 3 meetings. They came up with 3 proposals:
 1. Carpet tiles cost \$40,000 - \$42,000.
 2. Plush carpet rolls
 3. Custom carpet rolls (most expensive \$10,000 or more over the cost). A parishioner proposed this customized carpet for its richness and uniqueness. They also volunteered to pay for the extra cost (\$10,000 or more as needed).

Pros: tiles are replaceable, custom carpet is more durable and would be one of a kind, custom would last 25-30 years, custom carpet at no extra cost to the parish.

Cons: plush and custom come in rolls (not easily fixable and replaceable), would need to order extra of the custom option for repairs, plush would not be durable, plush would appear dirty quickly.

Timing: there is a wedding at the end of June – commence the work on the wood floors on June 6th and replace carpeting as soon as possible after.

Renee motioned, Dan seconded that the flooring committee continue their work choosing the color and design of the custom carpeting as approved by the parish council. Also work with Cindy Berger getting renderings to match the new carpet with our newly painted church interior with additional costs covered by a parishioner and all approved.
- VII. Church Cleaning: Renee and Lois met with Dan, Greg, James, Pat and Keith to discuss church/school cleaning needs. It was determined we need to hire some extra deep cleaning as getting volunteers is so difficult. Joan motioned, James seconded the committee should move forward to get bids from several cleaning services for prices on deep cleans for once/twice a year and all approved.
- VIII. Church Closing Policy – current policy reads if no school, no Mass. Some parishioners have questioned this policy – make suggested edits and bring to May meeting to create a new policy that makes sense for everyone.
- IX. Greeter Schedule – no one has stepped up to be volunteer greeters. At present time no 4:15 greeters, a few volunteers at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses.
- X. Committee Reports
 - A. Welcoming – Joan reported she sent 30 – 40 cards to new members and dropped off booklets to a few realtor offices and the chamber office. A suggestion was made to bring some to Kingsway and Spero.
 - B. Cemetery – Dan reported that all is well.
 - C. Maintenance – Talk about removing bushes around the school and church for safety. The Knights will pay to replace/repair the planter at the rectory.
 - D. Volunteers – nothing seems to be bringing in new people.
- XI. New Business – Front side door of church should be unlocked during Masses/functions for fire safety when the steps are not a danger (not in winter).
- XII. Adjourn with prayer by Father at 8:36 p.m.
- XIII. Next Meeting – May 27, 2025

Additional Dates for 2025: September 23 and November 25

- I. Opening prayer - meeting prayer
- II. Call to order/and reading of the Mission Statement - Chair

Mission Statement: To advise and assist the pastor with the financial needs of our ministries by advocating sound financial management, stewardship and effective fundraising.

- III. Attendance
Joe Vandermark - acting chair 3-25-2025
Charlotte Mulroy - Trustee, Dan Neisen, Kelly Pumper - Business Administrator,
Sheila Hendricks - Principal of parish school and preschool director, Jerome Flaherty
- IV. Approval of November 26, 2024 minutes
- V. Sheila Hendricks 2025-2026 Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic School budget and talking points

Because of time considerations, Kelly asked Sheila to start the meeting off.

- A. Sheila offered a very in depth, detailed proposal moving forward in regards to a long term plan to grow OLP student population, projecting out to school year 2026-2027. Within that plan, information was provided to offer adjustments to what we are currently doing within the operation of the school. Adjustments will be made to fund changes. An additional teacher will be added to the faculty to support a critical need within the middle class demographic of OLP's school. In addition, a future foundation for OLP school is to be considered to help provide a perpetual resource to continue to support and grow the school to allow it to be sustaining. Sheila has gotten confirmation from most families for the 2025-2026 school year enrollment.
 - B. An accreditation team has done some in-person research at OLP to provide a document for growth to allow a better picture of OLP for the Archdiocese.
 - C. A motion was made to accept 2025-2026 budget for OLP school. Much discussion continued for details and consideration as to how to grow our school. This growth is something we all can share in helping to make happen. Support for our school can not only be contained within the walls of a building.
 - D. Motion to accept the budget for OLP school was tabled for discussion of Our Lady of the Prairie financial report ending January 31, 2025.
- VI. OLP Financial Report for period ending 1-31-2025
 - A. Much discussion to consider where money could be conserved for the operation of the church and school.
 - B. School donation assessment will be researched to see if we could find any savings on how we handle contributions to the church. This will be done not

only for the school.

- C. How and who we offer our liquid assets to be controlled by. Our money in the bank.
 - D. Be most connected to any opportunity that may provide our church access, funding that could be financially positive to our ongoing mission of supporting our OLP family!
 - E. Motion was made and seconded for the approval of the Parish and School budget as part of Our Lady of the Prairie 310 budget worksheet Parish & School. Motion was voted on and motion passed for the entirety of the Parish and School budget. We have a new Parish and School budget.
- VII. Father stopped to join our group for the last few minutes of our meeting. Father led us in prayer to conclude our meeting.