

St. Mary of the Woods / St. Aloysius Parish Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Members in attendance: Director of Parish Life Denise Elsenheimer, Bonnie Bruman, Jim Grant, Carol Hart, Dan Ingalls, Melanie Pauch, Richard Wentzel

Not in attendance: Jim Malloy, JoAnn Pero, Dawn Staley

Guests: None

Meeting began at 4:05 p.m. with prayer and Welcome by Carol Hart.

Minutes from the April, 2025 were distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve made by Richard, supported by Bonnie. All yeas. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Update on Parish Projects:

St. Mary's: To date no response has been received from the insurance company relative to the re-build / restoration of the basement mold issue. Mold issue has also been noted upstairs in the Narthex. Work has begun taking down walls. No dehumidifiers or fans have been placed in the basement to help encourage air flow and/or mitigate any future mold issue. It was noted that the dehumidifiers purchased in the past have stopped operating. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will be meeting after they hear from the insurance company.

The inside entrance doors of the Narthex are to be replaced.

St. Aloysius: Twin Bay Glass will be re-glazing the windows at St. Al's. This will involve taking out each pane of glass to clean the glass and surrounding area and then re-installing.

The new cross for St. Al's is complete and will be installed once Fr. Mike blesses the Cross.

Facility Rental Policies: The forms have been completed and are ready to be used at each Parish.

MCCC Risk Management Inspection was completed. Compliance is still a work in process. Denise has dates documented of what has been completed to date, and when the work will be completed on the outstanding issues.

The Holy Spirit Group Study began this week. There were 7 participants at St. Mary's and 6 at St. Al's.

Lent and Easter programs were well attended. First Holy Communion and Confirmation will take place May 18th at St. Ann's in Cadillac. Two individuals will be welcomed into the Faith on Pentecost.

Pastoral Planning for the Diocese: Carol Hart will be participating, as will two members from the Finance Council. There is a need for one more person from St. Mary's.

Young women's group - has been well received. They are opening up the group to include any women who have children at home, newly married, or engaged women. It is encouraging to see the young women of our Parishes getting together for camaraderie and faith sharing.

Listening Sessions: A summary of the listening sessions from each Parish was handed out to everyone to review. According to Carol there was not a single issue that stood as a top concern. Discussion took place among Council members. There will be future discussion regarding realistic goals that might be achieved based on the comments received from Parishioners.

Trout Festival Parade: was well attended; the float was spectacular! All generations participated and fantastic time was had by all. Plans are already under way for the float for next year!

New Business

Knights of Columbus (K of C) updates: The Knights will have officer elections in June, 2025; there was an insert in the Bulletin requesting assistance, as well as a direct mailer to existing Knights. No new members were recruited as a result of this endeavor.

St. Al's PCCW updates: PCCW is not sure at this point if their annual sale will take place due to the fact that the storage facility where the event is typically held may not afford them the space this year. Council discussed alternative locations including having the sale at St. Al's and bringing in a large tent to be erected in the parking lot. Carol is still in negotiations with the current facility.

The PCCW Retreat will be on October 17, 2025 at St. Al's. Brother Michael Whitman from East Tawas will be the Retreat Director and his topic will be "*Spirituality as the Way of the Heart*". The Knights may be able to help with the cost of the Retreat. PCCW will be having their cookie sales in July and September, as well as their Ice Cream Social on June 22, 2025.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry updates: Faith Formation ended the first weekend in May with a pasta bar pot luck. Catechists were acknowledged. Jenny is sending a survey to the parents regarding a possible change in the meeting time for religious education. Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be July 15-16-17, 2025 at St. Mary of the Woods. Volunteers are needed and announcements will be forthcoming in the Bulletin. Denise is thinking of activities for the Youth Ministry group to participate in throughout the summer.

Buildings & Grounds updates: The Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with projects such as clean up at St. Al's cemetery; spreading mulch at St. Al's, etc. There was discussion regarding a sidewalk installation at St. Al's from the Church to the parking lot on the west side of the Church. This project was tabled for the time being due to cost, as well as research to be done regarding building codes, railing, etc. with the Village of Fife Lake as well as the County of Grand Traverse. A no dumping sign needs to be placed at St. Al's in the far area of the parking lot to eliminate / control the dumping of debris and leaves.

Cemetery Committees Update: St. Mary of the Woods: Denise is still wanting to form a Cemetery Committee; there was an issue with an "green" burial recently that was in conflict with the footing of the original church. This is an issue that needs to be addressed before any additional "green" burials take place.

St. Aloysius: Clean up at St. Al's Cemetery will be this weekend; Denise and Andres are working to finish marking the plots at the cemetery.; Dave Gonyer has markers to start plotting more graves. Mapping of the new section of St. Aloysius Cemetery is on-going.

Correspondence / Good of the Order

Melanie was asked to remain on Parish Council for one more month in order to close out the Fiscal Year, as Parish Council does not meet in the month of July. She agreed to remain on Council through the June 2025 meeting.

**Due to a schedule conflict, the June, 2025 Parish Council meeting will be
Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Woods.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m. with Prayer.

Next meeting is June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Woods - Dan still / always needs cookies!!

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Pauch, Secretary