

St. Mary of the Woods / St. Aloysius Parish Council
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, June 10, 2025

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

Not in attendance: Dawn Staley

Guests: None

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with Prayer and Welcome by Jim Malloy.

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

Old Business:

Update on Parish Projects:

St. Mary's: Modernistic submitted a bid in the amount of \$13,000.00 for clean-up of the basement and \$750.00 for the cleaning of the Church & Overflow area; the insurance company will pay \$8,900.00 toward the basement bid. The work is to begin June 16th. Two dehumidifiers have been ordered. One will be placed in the basement of the Church and one will be placed in the basement of the Rectory; the repair of the front wall of the Church will cost approximately \$6,000.00. This repair should address the water problem in the basement. The project of re-grading the front and west side of the Church is still to be put out for bids. Denise is in the process of finalizing the bid for replacement/repair of the Narthex doors in the amount of \$6,700.00.

St. Aloysius: Twin Bay Glass will be re-glazing the windows at St. Al's. Denise will set up the date and time and will coordinate this with Jim Grant as well; the new cross has been installed on the front of the Church.

MCCC Risk Management Inspection: The response to the action items has been completed and submitted. The remaining items are a work in process.

Adult Faith Formation: The Holy Spirit Group Study has been well attended at both Parishes. There is a book study that is being organized by a select group. More information to be shared parish-wide as book study moves forward. Denise is working to set up a Widows / Widowers social group after the many recent losses experienced by Parish members.

Pastoral Planning for Diocese: Discussion and feedback from Council members who attended the initial meeting at the Cathedral in Gaylord in May.

Young women's group: The group continues to draw in the young women of the Parishes for camaraderie and faith sharing.

Listening Sessions: Discussion about what items outlined from the listening sessions are items we can move forward on. 1. Improvements to the Parish website are in process now. 2. Making the large-print prayer cards available again has been done at St. Al's and will be done at St. Mary's. 3. The Parishes will be offering Spring / Fall clean-up for parishioners who request the services. 4. Installation of a sidewalk at St. Al's to the East side parking lot is not a feasible project at this time. Another solution would be to change the parking in front of church from angle parking to parallel parking with space between the grass and the cars for people to walk. Discussions will be continuing on what other actions can be taken to accomplish other items.

St. Mary's Craft Show committee: With the funds remaining from the 2024 Craft Show, the committee is purchasing 8' long white plastic tables to replace the heavy wooden tables. These tables are easier to move and to store.

Parish picnic: There is a planning meeting scheduled for June 26, 2025 at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's. The picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 17th after the 11:00 am Mass at St. Mary's.

New Business

Knights of Columbus (K of C) updates: The Knights will be cleaning up and organizing the chair storage room in the coming weeks; the Council will be sponsoring a Strawberry Social at St. Anthony's Parish in Mancelona; they have financially supported Project Feed the Kids through J&S Hamburg; the Council approved up to \$500.00 for clean-up and renovation to the shed area at St. Mary of the Woods Cemetery to include landscape fabric and stones and/or mulch to the area to make it maintenance-free; the Council held Officer elections at their June meeting. Currently there are not enough active Knights to fill all of the positions. Despite the Council's efforts to rejuvenate and increase their Membership, the Officers are now researching the procedure for possibly terminating or suspending the operation of St. Joseph the Worker Council #7419.

St. Al's PCCW updates: Vice-President Lynn Grant is getting new people involved in the PCCW and everyone is pleased with the success of the PCCW.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry updates: Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for July 15-17 at St. Mary of the Woods. Jenny is hoping for more middle school and high school students to help. The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) will be in November in Indianapolis, Indiana. Denise is hoping that four (4) students will be interested in attending. The total cost for the trip is \$ _____. The students may have fund-raisers, the PCCW, Knights and Craft Show Committee may be able to assist the students financially as well.

Buildings & Grounds updates:

St. Mary's: Mark is working on repair and refinish of the cross at the CR612 Church sign; the parking lot needs to be re-surfaced and the cracks filled in; the exterior of St. Mary's needs to be painted.

St. Al's: The siding on the east side of the building needs attention; gravel was placed at both entrances to the Cemetery and at the wash-out area by the road; the irrigation system should be up and running this week; there is need for a "No Parking on Grass" sign on the west side of the Church, and a "No Dumping" sign on the east side of the church; there is an area of the roof that is subject to ice dams that needs to be repaired, and snow stops will be installed as well. The Committee is seeking estimated for this work; weatherstripping is needed on the doors. Discussion continued regarding a sidewalk from church to the parking lot on the east side of church. Jim Grant had discussion with Jacob from the Grand Traverse County Construction Codes office regarding codes and permits, the need for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and a railing. Richard and Pam spoke with a contractor and received a bid in the amount of \$2,600.00 for a walkway. We were reminded that Denise needs to be kept in the loop regarding any discussions and proposals made for any type of work to be done at either Parish; the cross needs to be removed from the bell tower.

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. Chris Drummond received a promotion at work which is making it more challenging for him to handle the responsibilities of the Sexton for the Cemetery. Denise will continue to work with him.

St. Aloysius: Denise is working with Andy Hall and Dave Gonyer to map out the gravesites in the new section.

Ecumenical Cookout:

A group of Churches in the Kalkaska area will be gathering on July 27, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. at Railroad Square for a cookout to gather and get to know each other. There will be games for the kids. Each church needs to provide enough hamburgers or hotdogs (and buns) for their respective group. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert, and lawn chairs. Denise will begin promoting this at both Parishes.

Donation for Carillon at St. Mary’s

A generous donation was made to St. Mary’s for the specific purpose of restoring and repairing the Carillon at St. Mary’s.

Parish Council Membership: With the resignation of Melanie and Bonnie, elections will need to take place for these two positions, as well as inviting new members to continue to shape our Council according to our Charter.

Correspondence / Good of the Order

Bonnie & Melanie were thanked for their years of service on the Parish Council and were presented with a lovely Virgin Mary holy water font for each of their homes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. with Prayer.

THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL NOT BE MEETING IN JULY, 2025

Next meeting is August 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Aloysius
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Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Pauch, Secretary