

St. Mary of the Woods / St. Aloysius Parish Council
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at St. Mary of the Woods

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

Not in attendance: Dan Ingalls, Jim Malloy, JoAnn Pero

Guest(s): Jennifer Schmidt, Assistant Dir. Faith Formation

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with prayer and Welcome by Carol Hart.

Minutes from the November 13, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Richard, support by Bonnie. All yeas. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Update on Parish Projects:

St. Mary's: \$75,000.00 has been raised toward the window replacement at St. Mary's.

Request for Bids have been placed for the re-build / restoration of the basement once the mold issue has been resolved.

St. Aloysius: Jim Grant travelled to Lansing to look at outdoor crosses to replace the one at St. Al's. He has also looked at several on-line. The decision was made to have a new cross, approximately 3'x5' made locally.

Cemetery Endowment Fund: Funds for each Cemetery have been established. St. Al's Fund balance is \$35,760.00 and St. Mary's Fund balance is \$52,508.00.

Facility Rental Policy: Changes to be made to the Rental Policy for St. Mary's. Final drafts to be reviewed and approved at our February, 2025 meeting.

Development of Parish Council Charter: Once Denise approves the Charter, she will forward it to the Diocese for their review and approval. Pursuant to the motion approved at the November meeting, there will be an article in the Bulletin seeking new Council members, and copies of the Minutes from our meeting will be made available on the tables in each Parish. There is a need for someone to manage the updating of items on the Website. Denise will put an article in the Bulletin to see if anyone in either Parish might be interested in taking on this task.

Chili Cook-Off updates: A save-the-date announcement will be in this week's Bulletin; a flyer will be in the bulletin on January 19th; and the event will be on the front page of the Bulletin January 26th. People are being requested to register by January 30th. Denise to order the 4 oz. tasting cups. All other supplies are on-hand.

Emergency Procedures Plan: Denise to contact the Michigan Catholic Conference Risk Management for guidelines on developing this Plan. A committee will need to be formed: Melanie, Richard and Jim Grant volunteered. Melanie will reach out to Marv Walter to see if he would be interested given his law enforcement background.

New Business

Knights of Columbus (K of C) updates: The Knights will not be meeting in January, February and March. Jesse Kohler has assumed the duties as Acting Grand Knight and Al Martin the duties of Treasurer until elections in the spring.

St. Al's PCCW updates: PCCW will not be meeting the months of January, February and March 2025. They did purchase another table, as well as a cabinet for storing food items for the local food pantry.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry updates: Jenny advised on family faith formation, which occurs once a month. The families want to be involved in service projects. Jenny to contact the Kalkaska Senior Center to see if there are seniors who will be needing spring clean-up, etc.; there were over 60 people who attended the Advent celebration; five families and Denise participated in the Christmas in Kalkaska Lighted Parade; in March the families will be going to Kalkaska Memorial Assisted Living to visit and play games with the residents there;

Denise advised that the middle school student will be attending the State Conference in Grand Rapids in March; there is also a conference entitled To Encounter Christ held at Camp Daggett in Petoskey the same weekend for the Junior, Senior and young college students; Middle School/High School students continue to meet twice per month on Sunday evenings from 5-7 p.m. because they are not able to use the basement at this time for classes; K-5 students meet most Sundays from 12:15 to 1:30.

Buildings & Grounds updates: Jim Grant requested the assistance of any youth in the parish to help with bringing items up the stairs from the basement at St. Mary's. He also requested that either he, or the Parish Office, be notified of any maintenance issues that need attention within either Parish.

Cemetery Committee Updates: Mapping of the new section of St. Aloysius Cemetery is on-going. It should be noted that between December 1st and May 1st no burials can take place at either cemetery. This became an issue after the passing of parishioners from each parish during the month of December, 2024. Weather does not permit access to the cemeteries from December through May.

Michigan Catholic Conference Risk Management inspection: After the inspection in November, MCC provided the Parishes with "action items" that need to be corrected as well as policies that need to be implemented. Some items have already been corrected and others will be addressed over the coming weeks once the Committee has been formed. This was last done in 2019, and needs to be done every 3 years. A copy of the Action Items/Recommendations provided by MCC is attached to and made part of these Minutes.

Overview of seasonal events: Christmas and New Year's Masses were well attended, and well celebrated. Many visitors and families participated in our worship services. The Epiphany Luncheon had great participation from many families and youth.

Lenten Stations of the Cross and dinner: Discussion took place regarding Stations of the Cross at each Parish, as well as a fish fry dinner and/or soup/sandwich dinner during Lent. Motion was made by Melanie and supported by Richard to continue the practice from last year of alternating between the two Parishes on Friday evenings with Stations of the Cross at 5:00 pm and dinner to follow. Dinner at each Parish will be soup and sandwiches, and desserts donated by Parishioner. Denise will speak with Mark at G's about discontinuing the fish dinners. This is especially in light of the fact the in the past the Parish had to absorb the cost of the dinners when people failed to show up for dinner. All yeas, Motion carried. Stations of the Cross will be at St. Al's on March 7, 21 and April 4; and at St. Mary's on March 14, 28, and April 11.

Adult Faith Formation: Denise is planning a luncheon study to take place once each month. Day and time to be determined. The discussion / topic will center on the book "The Fourth Quarter of Your Life: Embracing What Matters Most" by Matthew Kelly. This study will be geared for the older generation of Parishioners.

Denise would also like to start up an adult study during Lent to be offered during the day as well as in the evening at each Parish. She is working on a topic/study from either the "Formed" website or a bible study program

Correspondence / Good of the Order

None

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

Next meeting is February 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Aloysius.
--

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Pauch, Secretary