

ST. PAUL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 8, 2026

6:00 p.m., Bona Room

“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a growing Catholic Community of Disciples, who Know, Love, Serve and Share, the Good News of Jesus.”

President Pat Schmidt was not in attendance. Secretary Trustee Jim Milhaupt was her substitute leader for this meeting. Jim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Father Bob did the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Judy Hurlburt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December 11, 2025 meeting. Jim Milhaupt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ATTENDANCE

Father Bob Stegmann, Jim Milhaupt, Judy Hurlburt, Michelle Otto, Cheri Ver Voort and Kelly Buechel.

OPEN FORUM

Cheri Ver Voort brought up two errors found in the meeting minutes from the October 9, 2025, meeting. The council agreed to strike out the sentences/words that were typed in error or were misquoted. The first sentence is under the heading Property & Finance Update: “Bank statements are not accurate right now as bills are coming in, and some insurance money is also coming in.” The second error is under the heading Cemetery Update: “and adding speed bumps.”

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Maggie was not in attendance, but she left the council an update. Family Ministry, trunk or treat in October went really well! We had a few more trunk hosts than in the past. Live Nativity also had a great participation this year. Maggie mentioned how she was more aggressive (or annoying) in promoting volunteer sign up among faith formation families and it helped especially on Friday night. The attendance list for Sunday’s Children’s Liturgy shows a steady (if small) attendance at most 8:30 a.m. Masses. Therefore, Children’s Liturgy will continue (for now) at both 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Mass. Faith Formation’s fall semester went well. She is grateful to the catechists who make it possible and to the parents who have prioritized faith formation in a busy world. She sends a thank you to the Knights of Columbus for providing their annual Christmas treats to the children, and special thanks to Adam Kurzynski and Rich Vander Zanden who helped hand out the bags on our last class before Christmas. Thanks to Willy and some Grandpa Patrol helpers who helped swap the Live Nativity storage room with the 3rd grade classroom. Advent Family Faith Night was a success on December 3. There was a round-robin with 4 different crafts/games/activities/prayer stations for families to do together with great attendance (26 families). The P3 (Pizza and Prayer with Parents) Nights have also been going well. We had one in November and December. The next one is January 14.

Maggie also wrote: Thanks so much to the Knights, Mary's Girls, and some generous parishioners who have provided the money to cover the cost of our once-a-month pizza nights. Giving families an opportunity to have a meal together that they don't have to cook/clean up or buy from a restaurant is a simple way to provide for the tangible human needs of busy parents/kids. Just as critical, the vibe of a busy parish hall full of happy parents and kids enjoying food and laughing and having fellowship is precisely the goal of P3. I'm also grateful to the several faith formation parents who have, unprompted, brought drinks or desserts to share to go with our pizzas. Some parents stay for part of Holy Hour once kids go to class, which is wonderful!

MARY'S GIRLS

Pat Schmidt was not in attendance but sent her update through email. Mary's Girls will be saying their monthly Rosary on January 13 at 2 p.m. in church. Their January monthly meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 25 in the Bona Room. Michelle Otto mentioned an update from last December's meeting: Mary's Girls purchased only 115 books as gifts for St. Paul parishioners and not 200. This was a good number to purchase as there are still some books available at each entrance. A special thank you goes out to Mary's Girls for the Christmas gift this year!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be meeting (tonight) January 8. They will be hosting a Pancake breakfast for Sunday, January 11, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. The next Pancake breakfast dates will include: 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, and 5/17.

CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Judy Hurlburt reported that both Giving Trees this year (the ornaments for gifts and the mitten tree) were a huge success. It's amazing how much people donated. Thank you everyone so much for your generosity!

TRUSTEES REPORT

Jim Milhaupt, Secretary Trustee - no report. Jackie Weiland, Treasurer Trustee - not in attendance.

PROPERTY & FINANCE UPDATE (as an FYI to the Parish Council)

Father Bob reported that the boiler project will be put on hold until spring. The heat needs to be turned off in the church to fix the boilers. Therefore, we will wait until spring to fix the boilers. Also, it was discussed that the baby grand piano still needs a humidifier and a cover to keep the dust off.

CEMETERY UPDATE

No update

MUSIC MINISTRY, Source and Summit Hymnal

Father Bob said we are still searching for a choir director. In Pat's emailed update: Pat said Mary Verbeten, a Cantor, commented that she doesn't like the Source and Summit book with all the chanting and very few of the songs that we used to sing. Mary told Pat this in the hope that Pat would mention it at the Parish Council Meeting. The council discussed how change is hard and we will keep an open positive mind as we continue to adjust to the new book. Father Bob

also mentioned that he will ask other parish leaders at the next regional meeting their thoughts and opinions on the Source and Summit book. Then we will know if other parishes are having the same issues and how they're resolving them.

RAFFLE CALENDAR SALES

Cheri said calendar sales were better this year, and more money was made than last year even though the cost dropped from \$30 down to \$25. 331 calendars were sold this year which was 72 more than last year. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle calendars!

CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY 1ST MASS SCHEDULES

No comments were made

REPAIR AND UPGRADE OF THE CHURCH BELLS

No update since last time. This project is on hold until more bids come in. We can take this off the agenda until future notice.

LENT

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Masses are 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. with Faith Formation.

Next Parish Council Meeting - February 12, 2026

ADJOURN THE MEETING

Father Bob led the closing prayer. Judy Hurlburt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Otto seconded it. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kelly Buechel, Parish Council Secretary