

Saint Malachy Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, 26 February 2024

**Members Present:** Fr. Gifford, Becky Werner, Theresa Walck, Jenna Freadhoff, Kathy Hanford, Kristin Wilson, Julie Atwell, Kevin Lillis, Brice Maertens, Brian Sebastian

**Opening Prayer:** Kathy Hanford

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from January meeting were emailed prior to the meeting. Motioned by Rebecca Werner, seconded by Brice M. for approval. All voted to approve minutes with noted corrections.

### **Into His Likeness Fr. Gifford - Meeting God in the Valley**

Judy Kanke on the floor - discussion on stained glass windows and feedback from parishioners - speaking on her behalf and others. Have spoken in private to Fr. and the trustees with her questions on the project. Her concern is in regards to parishioners who are leaving the church which she believes is due to how this project has made them feel as if not being a part of St. Malachy church anymore. **Some feedback is the question: if this was an idea from the 1990's why was it never brought up at least to her own attention?** So many parishioners that have been members during that time do not remember discussions or about the money that was donated. The question is why was it not brought up as a discussion for the entire congregation. Felt it was held from themselves with a small committee that could have included other parishioners. There is a question on the dollar amount that is being spent on the windows and not focused more towards other needs. Couple examples given were the school maintenance and salary for teachers. There is confusion on why our church will save money in other areas but felt like spending this large amount on windows was necessary at this time. Concerned about parishioners wanting to leave the church.

### **Items of Interest / New Business Fr. Gifford**

#### **Stained Glass Windows**

- Father clarified that the question of directing the money to other causes is in no way an indication that other causes are less important, because they were not choosing a cause for a given set of parish funds, but working on a project which would be funded solely by focused donations intended for the project (not from existing parish funds). It was reinforced that there were no other secret undisclosed funds. However, the specifics of people's contributions are appropriately held confidential. No names or specific amounts attached to those names are shared.
- March 17 - Bulletin will have a survey for anyone interested to give feedback or an open meeting for all who wish to join
- Also reiterated that efforts were made at inclusion and communication toward the parish at large, but Father deeply regrets that those efforts were insufficient
- Discussion on parishioners feedback and how to address questions and/or concerns
  - Goal to have the parishioners feel heard and give the communication needed

- In response to a previous question (raised again tonight), regarding the impact of potentially backing out of the contract, the question was investigated with regard to both the contract and contract law and it was confirmed that we cannot cancel the project without any guarantee of not having to pay the full amount potentially plus legal fees

### **Growing Disciples**

- Still on track for final decision(s) to be made by Pentecost 2024
- Priest assignments to follow the decision announcement(s)

### **Parish Mission and Quads**

- Julie and Kevin co leaders
- Meeting with Steubenville for directions and to get teams together 2/27/24

### **Gospel of Mark Challenge in March: Three Friends and a Bible**

- Starts Friday

### **Flooring**

- Updating/upgrading some of the flooring in the church sanctuary along with some maintenance investments in the baptistry for next years budget

### **Rectory Updates**

- Walked through process with building grounds - moving along
- When done, considering possibly, have coffee and donuts at rectory - walk through for parishioners

### **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

- Postponed to March 9, 2024
- Will start new RSVP process

### **Items from Council**

#### **Financial Report (Becky Werner)**

- 5th & 6th grade new boards with grant - 9 students can work at a time - rotate old ones to new locations
- Utilizing grants for STEM curriculum
- Next meeting will have tuition recommendations for 2024-2025 year
- Basket going around increased loose cash donations - for ADA reserve - last year short for first time - December for good month
- Notify caterpillar employees that they will match a school donation
- Anonymous donation for teachers and staff in December
- \$19,000 away from stained glass window being covered - this account began in the 90's with the sun coming in
- Pakula sale going towards the new windows in the school - \$180K plan this summer for all windows
- Discussion on sending letter as reminder on ADA donations - email out before next meeting
- Filled Secretary position - also work with church office tasks

- Next meeting April 25th

**School Report (Theresa Walck)**

- Car Party coming up - sold all tickets

**Committee Report(s) (Council)**

- Next meeting

**Council Retreat - Theresa Walck**

- Monday March 25, 2024. 5pm-9pm - Theresa bringing soup - can be something to share if wish

**Future Meeting Date:** March 25, 2024 - Council retreat 5pm-9pm

**Prayer leader for next meeting: Brice Maertens**

**Closing prayer:** Kathy Hanford

**Adjourned meeting:** Motioned by Kathy Hanford, seconded by Kristin Wilson, approved.  
Minutes submitted by Rebecca Werner, subject to approval at the next meeting.