

Close with prayer

Council Agenda – June 17, 2025

Present: Keith, Christopher, Jessica, Mary, Jen, Tom, Michael, Barbara, Charlie, Father Bob

Open with prayer.

Introduce guests: Ellen Young will be joining us to speak about Habitat for Humanity and the Parish's potential involvement.

- Habitat Build is at 634 Winnebago Heights in Menasha
- Thrivent is main sponsor, but there are also other local parishes who have contributed funds to the build.
- Build will begin in July and will run through November.
- Our parish can be involved as little or as much as parishioners are willing to commit to project
- Habitat does not need financial commitment from St. Gabriel
- Ideas discussed included providing website and QR code to parishioners so they can sign up to build, providing a meal/snack for builders, and perhaps creating a logoed St. Gabriel t shirt for those that sign up to build. Someone on Human Concerns committee is interested in supplying a meal for volunteers.
- 4-10 volunteers are needed per shift. Teens can participate starting at 14 with signed parental waiver.
- Action: Ellen will talk to Fr. Brian and come up with a presentation to gauge interest among parishioners via a listening session.

Guests Mike Van Dyke and Karen Rappl present from Building and Grounds and Finance Council to discuss school expansion project and parish budget.

Review the School expansion and ensure the Parish Council is up to date.

- Project has evolved quickly due to continued growth in school enrollment numbers. Planning began May 1st. Gries Architectural Group did plans and Miron is contractor. Each subcontractor is designing their own model for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.
- City of Neenah needs to give special permit and there will be a design review.. Notices went out to neighbors and were put in the newspaper. Design review is tomorrow. Early start permit applied for as well.
- Project still needs approval from Diocese. Diocese has proxy in place to make sure that parish does not go into debt and all canon/state laws are followed.
- 4 new classrooms will have their own heating/cooling system. The hope is that the build will not force update to entire fire system. At some point in the future, sprinkler system may need to be added. The goal of the guild is to get occupancy to 250+ students. Jen Giombetti can give better answer as to the total number of children that will be able to be served once addition is complete.
- The hope is that new rooms will be ready for students by October 1st. Until then, teachers will be doubling up.
- Asbestos found in caulk around the doors and company will be coming to remove this on 6/30.

Review of Parish Budget for 2026.

- Budget is balanced

Faith Formation update, Victor & Jenny will both be leaving.

- -Jenny has already retired. Victor will be leaving in December. He will be moving out of state and getting married in January.
- -Father Brian may take over youth ministry. He is leading confirmation classes already at his present congregation.
- -Jenny's position will be replaced. Father Bob encouraged council members to reach out to Father Brian if interested in helping to select candidate.

Review of Parish Council membership.

- -Tom and Mary are willing to stay on another year to assist with Fr. Brian's transition to St. Gabriel.
- -For those members who have not yet been added to Parish Council section of website, please write a short bio and submit to Lori with a picture. It does not have to be long or extravagant. The idea is to let parishioners know who is on their council.

Committee Reports.

Human Concerns

-Rise Against Hunger was a success and 50,112 meals were packed on 4/26.

-Working to get a budget together.

-Human Concerns will be taking over Christmas Giving program from Victor. The prison program was a logistical challenge, so the thought is to adopt family/families perhaps from within the school.

Respect Life

-Rose sale for Mother's Day - funds will be split evenly between Bella and Vita.

-Candy Bar sale final numbers are not yet ready, but funds raised will go towards programs.

-Charlie is working to restart Elizabeth Ministries Rosebud program. Different colors available to signify child loss, pregnancy, adoption, etc. to signify prayer requests.

Open discussion.

Next meeting will be August 26th. First day of school for SMCS students.