

St. Maurus and St. Joseph Parish Councils Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20th, 2025, 7 PM

St. Maurus Conference Room

- 1) Prayer: Father Benz began the meeting with a prayer
- 2) Attendance: Casey Schilling, Gerry Keene, Isaac Baer, Stan Balsman, Tammy Hotop, Neal Bachmann
- 3) Excused: Kathy Cowan, Cheryl Winschel
- 4) Review of Last Month's Minutes. Read and Approved by Casey and Isaac
- 5) Pastor's Report
 - a. The Jansen family is moving back to their hometown of Leopold. Because of all of the dear service they have provided us, this affects our community in many ways.
 - i. Amy and daughter Caydence will continue PSR for the remainder of the year. Father spoke with Ashly Richardet about options for filling those spots. Ashly does have people in mind to fill the openings. It was also mentioned the option of catechists going to families homes to sit in once a month if the children were taught at home. Casey expressed concern with the lack of involvement the children would have in the church and the PSR program by choosing this option.
 - ii. Derek has resigned from the parish council. Father will put out an announcement asking for a replacement for the St. Joseph council.
 - iii. Amy has resigned from her music ministry. Carly Green (Baer) has expressed interest in helping us, but it might take a while before she does. We'll look for options. Father did speak to the St. Lawrence musicians and will follow up with Mark who had shown interest.
 - iv. Father will draft a thank you letter for the Jansen family.
 - b. Parishioners have inquired about sharing meeting minutes. After our review last meeting of previous minutes formats and our assignment into Worship, Pastoral Ministry, and Social Outreach Liaisons, Father decided our minutes will be arranged according to these three organization categories.
 - c. Worship:
 - i. St. Joseph hosted a beautiful Mass for homebound on March 20, 2025. There were about 40 in attendance. Bill Ernst and Helen Winschel provided music, and SMTS provided transportation for those who requested it. A reception was held afterwards in the bottom level of the parish hall. A beautiful St. Joseph Table was built and a delicious soup and salad luncheon was provided. The spirit of everyone was wonderful as many missed being at the Apple Creek church. Another will be hosted at St. Maurus on April 10.
 - ii. St. Joseph will host a priests' deanery meeting on April 15. The Ladies of St. Joseph will provide a dinner with pork tenderloin, salad, green beans, roast potatoes.

- iii. St. Joseph 200th Anniversary Committee is making some progress on the paint restoration project. We've got one bid that is a bit expensive, but we've got appointments set for this next week with 4 other contractors. An interior designer with connections to the parish is also being consulted for advice on contractors and colors and design.

d. Parish Ministry:

- i. Maintenance for both parishes is needed: a lift has been offered for two weeks in April we can hopefully use to repaint St. Joseph Hall Roof and Inspect and replace loose roof shingles and steeple siding at St. Maurus.
- ii. St. Maurus has an additional maintenance need of repairing the exhaust in the concession stand in the garage for the picnic. Outdoor grills may provide a good temporary solution.
- iii. St. Maurus Parish Center HVAC and Church Speaker Systems have been installed. Casey had concerns brought to her attention on the cosmetics of the speakers being large and the color not blending in with the church, but overall the sound of the new speakers is good. Father said it could be looked into painting the speakers so they better coordinate.
- iv. Knights of Columbus donated \$300 toward Picnics and \$500 for Utilities.
- v. Update from Gerry on CTM (Separate attachment)
- vi. St. Joseph Quilters are nearing completion of 2 beautiful quilts that will be auctioned at the parish picnic.
- vii. St. Joseph Shrine Sisters planted 6 dogwoods around the shrine. A leaf blower was purchased for just under \$300 with an additional donation from an outdoor wedding at the shrine.
- viii. St. Maurus was awarded a \$2,000 grant. Donna and Dawn Seabaugh attended a luncheon on March 20 at the Rigali Center. St. Maurus parish will host two events, both aimed at revitalizing people's belief that hope and renewed spirituality will provide guidance and strength in today's challenging world. Both events will be highlighted with presentations from Patty Schneier, well known Catholic speaker, author, wife and mother.

The first event will be a half-day seminar anchored by two presentations: "The Eucharist: The Source and Summit of EVERYTHING!" and "God, I Really Don't Have Time for This!". The first presentation will focus on the Eucharist and discuss why we believe what we believe as Catholics. The second presentation will focus on how to incorporate those core faith beliefs and prayer into everyday life. The central theme of the event would be to set aside the noise and chaos of everyday life, renew the beliefs at the core of our Catholic faith, and learn ways to let prayer guide our life. This event would be targeted towards all generations. It is anticipated the event

would include Mass, followed by check-in and light breakfast, and two one-hour presentations separated by break and small group discussions.

The second event would be a women's event overseen by the St. Ann Sodality at St. Maurus parish. The event would focus on bringing together Christian women from St. Maurus and surrounding parishes for an evening to celebrate their guidance and faith within the parishes, but moreover to allow them the opportunity to not be responsible for administering a parish event but instead focus solely on their spirituality. Patty Schneier would provide a presentation, sharing her real-world experience letting faith, hope and prayer guide women through the highs and lows of being a wife, mother and career woman. It is anticipated the event would include a meal and speaking presentation, in a casual environment that allows engagement and sharing faith journeys between the women during the evening.

e. Social Outreach:

- i. St. Isidore and Maria Helpers? "Men's Bible study began going up to the Mission House many years ago. [The order is Missionaries of Charity.] They typically go up 3 to 4 times a year. A couple years back they asked the women's Bible study group to participate also. This past week, we fried fish and fries and slaw. Other times kettle beef mashed potatoes corn and slaw are served. The Women's Bible Study "JOY" bakes cookies and cakes to be served at the lunch. We have served varying numbers of 60-100 homeless men and women. There is a women's and children's shelter located at the center. We had food prepared this last time for 9 women and children -- to be served after coming home from school for an evening meal. Some of us help with the meal being prepared for the day and some are assisting with the next. At times we have helped in cleaning the women's shelter or other small odd jobs. We typically have a group of 6-10 people from both parishes made up of the Men's Bible Study Group and the Women's. Combination of St Maurus and St Joseph. It's always really cool on a fish fry morning. We arrive early and it doesn't take long for the air to smell of the hot kettles and the fish frying! It also doesn't take long for people to start gathering and word to start spreading fast in regard to who's here and what they're fixing! The expression on the late arrivals is priceless as they realize there is still plenty of food left.
- ii. Ugly Quilts Project: members from both parishes meet in Cape to quilt for this project.

f. Other reports:

- i. Casey applied for an AED machine through Mercy for St. Maurus. Stan also applied for a couple for the St. Joseph parish. If we receive these

machines, the parish will be taught how to use them.

- ii. Casey said the Oak Ridge baseball team came to pick up debris after the tornado in the St. Maurus Cemetery.

6) Old Business:

a. Job Posting for Church Cleaners

- i. Shirley Buchheit provided a list of duties.
- ii. We will post to the bulletin to get feedback. What is a good salary?

b. Garden Tour Update

Garden Tour set for June 22, 2025. Six gardens, including the shrine, have been lined up. 100% of proceeds go to St. Joseph's Church. The ticket price for the tour will be \$25 per person. Tickets will be available May 12, 2025 from the church office as well as the Perry County Heritage Tourism office in Perryville. First announcement will be in the church bulletin this Sunday as well as a small flyer being handed out at this week's breakfast as people pay.

Sponsors: Three sponsorship levels are available: Garden Sponsors \$1,000, Orchid Sponsors \$500, and Rose sponsors \$250. The goal was to raise \$6,000 in sponsors by May 1, 2025. As of March 20 the following have been pledged:

Jason's Auto Body \$1,000

Arbitier and Welker Law Firm \$1,000

Henry Rose Blueberry Farm \$500

SEMCO \$250

Landmark Gas \$250

Kohlfeld Distributing \$250

Norma and Eugene Lauck \$1,000

BDC Farms \$250

Pending (committed to doing a sponsorship, decided on \$500 or \$1,000)

Total: \$5,000-\$5,500. **92% of goal in 6 days.**

(Buchheit's has donated \$3,000!)

7) Next Scheduled Meeting:

May 1, 2025 @ 7 PM at St. Joseph Apple Creek Conference Room

8) Closing Prayer by Father Benz

9) Adjournment