

Parish Council Minutes 1/6/2026

Voting Members	Present/Absent	Non Voting Members	Present/Absent
Stacy Celli	P	Julie Brown	P
Tiann Colwell	A	Terri Calvert	P
Mike Esselstein	P	Ethan Gion	A
Jerry Fitzgerald	P	Father Konka	P
Terry Fox	P	Mary Skiles	P
Nick Marez	A		
David Nash	P		
Casey Seymour	A		
Brooke Talkington	P		
Shelley Thomas	P		

Additional representatives attending: Larry Gion, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order 6:35 pm

Fr. Konka led the opening prayer.

Quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes from November meeting: Minutes were reviewed, no additions or corrections offered. Jerry Fitzgerald moved approval, Shelley Thomas seconded the motion, minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Father Konka Report:

Father provided an update regarding the Diocesan Appeal. As of December 1st we had raised \$18,475 which is 62% of our \$29,827 goal. So far 63 registered parishioners/families have contributed, the goal is 105 registered parishioners/families.

While Father is on vacation Fr. Harr will be covering Masses on Wednesday and Fridays. The weekend Masses will be covered by Fr. McDonald.

Father also reported that Fr. Jude has visited the area. To date St. Agnes has contributed \$12,500 to his parishes and schools in Uganda.

Election of Officers/Replacement of Council members

Mike Esselstein, acting president, opened discussion for election of new officers. After discussion of who is eligible for the position David Nash was nominated by Fr. Konka, Shelley Thomas seconded the motion. After additional discussion a vote was taken and Dave was elected by unanimous vote. Please pray for him!!! He's not sure this is a good retirement move!

In addition we are gearing up to replace three members of the council. The terms of Terry Fox, Nick Marez and Casey Seymour are up, none wish to pursue and additional term. The procedures for application were determined at our last meeting and are noted in the minutes.

This will rearrange the voting membership of the council. By virtue of Mike Esselstein being the Knights of Columbus representative he will now become a non voting member of the council. Upon filling the three open spots there will be nine voting members of the council.

Presidents Report:

Mike reported that his budget talk last month was received positively from folks at all three Masses. He additionally received a thank you card for his efforts. Many comments were made regarding folks adjusting their monthly giving because of his talk. He also had questions about more detail past vs. present giving.

There was a question from a council member about whether giving by automatic withdrawal had perhaps increased. It is a little early to tell but Mike was going to check with Teresa to find out.

Terri Calvert Parish Report:

Today is the official end of the Jubilee Year, the door is closed!! There will be an Extraordinary Jubilee in 2033 commemorating the 2000th anniversary of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

US Bishops will consecrate the US to the Sacred Heart of Jesus this year, the theme being "We Hold These Truths".

In 2027 we will be using the new Catholic Bible which has been updated. All lectionaries as well as the Roman Missal will be replaced, this will be a considerable expense when the time comes.

Robert Quijas fixed the door stop down stairs, sounds like he will not charge us!!! Thanks Robert!

Fr. Joe Hannappel will be here February 1st conducting a spring retreat. The theme is "Encountering Christ from the Triduum to Pentecost". Fr. Hannappel will also be at St. Agnes on February 22nd conducting a retreat for all of the parish leadership committees, Parish Council, Finance, Liturgy, Foundations. The topic will be "Disciples, Apostles and Stewards". All members of the committees are strongly encouraged to attend. A letter has been sent out from Fr. Konka regarding the retreat.

We have 18 preparing for confirmation which will be held April 12th

We have 16 preparing for first communion which will be held April 19th

There are 13 participating in OCIA and three will be baptized ten confirmed! Casey Seymour is helping.

Thanks Casey!

Lastly, Teresa has checked on the status of the rectory boiler and leakage. It has been checked and parts ordered, Big Mack will be doing the work as per contract. There has been a \$6926.57 bid placed to repair the boiler more extensively. Mike Esselstein will be checking with Big Mack to determine what exactly is covered by the contract. Numerous questions arose about possible options.

Julie Brown School Report

Julie reported that they are gearing up for Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Hanefeldt will be here during the week to visit St. Agnes School. He will likely be here to preside over the children's Mass on Wednesday of that week.

She is also gearing up for the schools registration period for the 2026/2027 school year. A big effort will be put into recruitment from surrounding parishes, most notably Christ the King in Gering and Our Lady of Guadalupe here in Scottsbluff. Julie attended the SPS board meeting when the fate of Lake Minatare School was decided. We are still a year away from federal school choice to kick into effect but hope is that we can attract some of the Lake Minatare families since the smaller nurturing environment of St. Agnes closely mirrors that of Lake Minatare. Julie will look to employ funds she has at her disposal to add to the attraction.

Mary Skiles Parish Foundation report

In light of the discussion about the possible big boiler expense Mary reminded us that the Foundation still has funds left over from the pew renovations and might be able to help with this expense. The group will meet next May. With reference to the pews some minor repairs have been required mostly done by Adam Vath. It was suggested that anything big should be referred to Cowens.

Good of the Order:

Mike Esselstein reported that the Toys For Tots program was another success. Mike thanked everyone who came to help out in the numerous available capacities, its a very big job!

Jerry Fitzgerald reported that Austin will be doing all of the yearly ground maintenance from snow removal to mowing. Jerry did wish for us to look into better, more effective deals regarding fertilization and weed control for all of the church properties. Mike Esselstein will look into comparable services and costs.

Larry Gion Finance Committee Report

Larry reported that for the first five months of the fiscal year we are \$76,746.05 short of the budget targets, this equates to a 31% shortfall. It was also reported that we have received \$12,500 in designated gifts which helps a good deal but as we have spoken about in the past those gifts are not sustainable. It is hoped that as a result of Mike's budget talk at Mass more folks will be opting for automatic withdrawal. This will ensure we still get weekly contributions from families even if they might be out of town.

Preliminary Christmas collection numbers suggest we received about \$8500 with the goal of \$10,000. However, there is no confirmation yet as to whether all donations have been accounted for such as designated gifts or late contributions. Mike reported that after his talk some folks did inquire about giving from rollovers, RMDs, estates, etc.

Larry reported that the 2025 budget numbers should be in the next bulletin.

Fr. Konka conducted the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday February 10th at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted by David Nash, Council Secretary