

Saint Bridget Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, Dec 17, 2025

Fr. Ken Shuping PRESENT ▾	Mike Wilder PRESENT ▾
Fr. Patrick Ssekibaala PRESENT ▾	Kristine Keeney PRESENT ▾
Meghan Hess, Principal ABSENT ▾	John Rogers PRESENT ▾
Bruce Slough, Chairperson PRESENT ▾	Maria Brown PRESENT ▾
Julia Williams ABSENT ▾	Stephen DeMauri PRESENT ▾
Pat Accardo PRESENT ▾	Mike Kozak PRESENT ▾

Opening

- 6:05 PM – Meeting was called to order by John Rogers
- Opening prayer, Father Ken

Approval of Minutes

- 6:07 PM Meeting minutes from November 2025 meeting were approved by the council

Liaison Reports

Liturgy – Mike Wilder

- Recruitment and training for ministers
 - Commissioning date for extraordinary ministers changed to Feb 7-8
- Discussion on the welcome table: purpose is to engage new parishioners
 - Suggestion: do we have a lector or other minister who can volunteer there to answer questions about those ministries
- Also discussed reaching out to other parish to see which challenges are shared and whether they have any solutions we can apply
- Received a donation for liturgical improvements; the committee discussed how to use them: on vestments, or perhaps a second railing up to the altar for lectors
- Christmas!
 - 5pm in the main church, 515pm in MPH
 - 8pm in the main church, incense-free
 - Midnight in the main church
 - 10am in the main church
 - Council discussed ways to keep the 5pm Mass cool enough with the number of parishioners in attendance
- Lessons and Carols was widely praised

Christian Formation-Kristine Keeney

- Santa Breakfast had 200 folks attend!
- Women's retreat upcoming on Jan 3

- \$35, sign up in advance, 86 signups so far
- Two first reconciliation retreats in Jan on the 10th and 24th
 - 86 children preparing!
- Sat, Feb 7, breakfast + Deacons VJ and Charlie will present on the diaconate
- Mar 7-8 Lenten retreat, content TBD end of Jan
- "Formed" update
 - 4 "eternal rest" sessions in Nov were lightly attended (e.g. 12 attendees on Nov 2). Feedback indicates that between Masses does not offer enough time for the format of watching a video + discussion afterward
 - Ron Campbell hosted 2 Formed Advent sessions on Zoom, with 60 attendees. Feedback is that they were excellent.
 - Patrick used Formed in youth ministry
 - Marisa uses Formed for sacrament prep classes
 - Heavily used at the school
- Lizzie Self is stepping down as Communications director
 - Terri will step up to cover this role

Social Ministry- Julia Williams

Info not received in time for this staff meeting.

Evangelization and Community Life - Mike Kozak

- Update from Jo Ellen on Engagement team
 - Fall action items wrapped up, looking to meet with ministry leaders in January to understand how they can get better support and connect parishioners
- Sat, Jan 31: Brunswick stew drive-thru pickup!
- Respect Life
 - Reserved a bus to the National March for Life on Jan 23
 - St. Edward's is getting their own bus this year, so covering the cost of the bus is down to St. Bridget and KoC council 395. We're requesting individual donations through the KoC site, and we'll pass the hat on the bus to help.
 - Holy Hour on Tues, Jan 13 from 530-630. Confessions held as usual
 - Deacons VJ and Charlie will preside
 - Pro-life advocacy day on Jan 15
 - Virginia March for Life on Apr 22
 - Council discussed promoting the Virginia Catholic Conference in the bulletin; the group sends regular updates about pro-life events like this or on upcoming legislation
 - Council discussed bringing Jeff Caruso to speak to the parish, especially looking for timing around the voter referendum on the constitutional amendment to raise awareness

Pastor Report - Fr. Ken

- Seminarians Avie and Minh are back for Christmas
- By-laws were signed Dec 3. We are a corporation! St. Bridget Richmond, Inc., doing business as St. Bridget Richmond and St. Bridget School. The president is Fr. Ken.

- Calendars and Christmas giveaway book are here (What Christians Believe, by Bishop Barron, for the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed)
- Increasing number of convalidations and adult baptisms
 - Potentially 16+ baptisms at the Easter Vigil! Where will they all stand.

Principal Report

- Current enrollment: 499
- Discussing tuition: it will not go over \$10k, but there will be an increase
- The capital campaign allowed the school to buy a new bus and go on additional field trips. Each trip it's used for saves the school ~\$2k.
- Mortgage on the middle school renovation is outstanding, but the campaign allowed the endowment to be built up lets us plan for when we can pay off the mortgage.

Old Business

- **Nursery / Children's Liturgy**
 - Same action items; no immediate progress
 - Marisa is going to try to put together a survey (to help and to use)
 - Children's liturgy is struggling with volunteers, even the trained adults → talked about inviting adults to come and observe to increase interest
 - Kim Lunardi and Liz Waring are going to speak at a Saturday event
- **Donut ministry**
 - Still need a volunteer to lead a Community Life committee to get durable progress forward here

New Business

- 9am Mass - should we open commons by default?
 - We've had over 400 people in attendance each weekend since Labor Day
 - Proposed and agreed: put out chairs ahead of time every Sunday now, open the common doors once the pews fill. We'll let the head usher know.
- Posting minutes
 - We will return to regularly posting the minutes on the bulletin board and the website
 - Approval of the minutes will happen via email so that they can be posted before the next council meeting
 - TBD on whether finance council and liturgy committee will be able to similarly post their minutes

Parishioner Feedback/Suggestion Box

- None this time, but Julia will check and report back, if necessary

Adjournment

- Fr. Patrick said a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned 7:16 PM