

Saint Bridget Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, Apr 15, 2026

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 ABSENT ▾
Pat Accardo PRESENT ▾	Mike Kozak PRESENT ▾
Avi PRESENT ▾	

Opening

- 6:02 PM – Meeting was called to order by Bruce Slough
- Opening prayer, Father Ken

Liaison Reports

Liturgy – Mike Wilder

- Triduum / Easter debrief
 - Palm Sunday: Re-consider the solemn processional entrance, given the cold and the logistics. Decided to keep it to underscore the importance of the celebration.
 - Possibly do a simpler entrance for the early Mass only
 - Holy Thurs:
 - went well, had enough consecrated hosts for Fri/Sat
 - Have adoration sign-up in the future
 - We should advertise the diocesan pilgrimage (7 churches)
 - Good Fri
 - Veneration of the Cross, 3pm worked as a time, 370 in attendance. Considered how to make it easier for people with mobility issues to venerate the cross
 - Stations had ~150 people, ran out of booklets, ordered more for next year
 - Holy Saturday
 - Some minor changes with where elect should stand
 - Questions about lighting, since it was too dark during the service to see the worship aid (seemed like a minor issue)
 - Precious Blood ran out very early, plan better next year
 - 14 baptisms, 21 confirmations! Discussion about where the newly baptized or confirmed should stand while the remaining baptisms happen.
 - Some discussion about narrowing the vigil to only people receiving new sacraments (no action yet)
 - Easter Sunday - 2800 in attendance!
 - 7am worked well, repeat this and extend to Palm Sunday
 - Some gaps in ministers (no sacristan at 9am), need more trained sacristans
 - Need to reinforce that the MPH Mass is not just a “children’s Mass”

- Planning ahead now for teen confirmation, Pentecost, Ascension
- Divine Mercy Sunday service well attended and by folks from other parishes
 - Grew out of a small group with a devotion to the Chaplet. Keep doing this!

Christian Formation-Kristine Keeney

- Men's retreat - considering Feb dates for next year
- VBS has 110 openings and only 30 left open
- Restructuring of youth ministry
 - Mary Rebecca moving out of the adult ministry role
 - Marisa and Patrick and a new third person will re-divide up the youth ministries areas

Social Ministry- Julia Williams

This month, social ministry is pivoting back to its regularly scheduled activities. We have a number of ministries that have spring events and opportunities, and we plan to showcase those as much as possible in the next few weeks.

Blackwell ES- Had their field day event on April 10 th . We had about 8-10 volunteers help with this event. They will be volunteering at the welcome table in May to help get any interested folks involved ahead of the fall. They will be looking for help with teacher appreciation snacks next month.

Haiti- We have the Diocesan Summit meeting this coming Saturday at St. Michael's. It will share more about the transition to self-sustainability and allow for networking and discussion on the current situation in Haiti.

Feeding ministries- we successfully launched our 4 th ministry and will be doing the second visit to Housing Families First next week. The coordinators have reached out to many of the folks who were on the sidelines and so far, it has been successful.

Walking with Moms- has a big month. We are manning a table this coming weekend to get folks to the VA March for Life on 4/22 and share literature and information about the proposed amendment. We are also preparing for our Mother's Day Tea with our respect Life partners on 5/3/26. The school is also preparing a field trip for 8 th graders to the VA March for Life. Our SBServes spotlight next month will be on Respect Life ministries, Mary's Choice and Pregnancy Resource Center, highlighting how they work to support mothers in our community.

Saint Bridget Builds- we are gathering volunteers to help with the 40 th Anniversary Build week May 11-16 th . We have a saved spot available to help on Friday, May 15 th and a couple of slots available partnering with St. Benedicts for May 16 th . The 16 th will see the dedication of the 400 th home completed for our Richmond Metro Habitat Chapter. We were recently invited and honored as long-term faith supporters of this organization at a dinner for participating faith groups in March.

We had a follow up/assessment meeting for the **Month of Service** and discussed what worked and what didn't. More survey data is still coming in, but overall, the response

was positive from coordinators and believe that there is a good foundation from this year's activities to recycle for next year with some small modifications. The team also agreed that the Lent timeframe was a benefit to appeal to the church and school and were pleased at the participation level from both.

Fr. Godfred will visit at the end of May, present on his project of a children's home in Ghana, and take up a second collection.

Evangelization and Community Life - Mike Kozak

Mentorship + Welcome teams:

- Resuming this weekend (18-19 Apr) after taking a break for Lent
- Next meeting is this week, they'll update the list of mentees and assess summer activities
- Welcome table coming back alongside donuts
- Also an information table for the March for Life
- For May 2nd and May 30th weekends, ministries will host some tables in the commons to look for volunteers

- Are we involved in campus ministry at U of R?
 - We already have some areas like campus Mass
 - Will ask the Mentoring team to consider and report back

Principal Report

- (skipped since Meghan was not in attendance)

Old Business

- **Parish Goals Update: more than halfway done with our goals!** Announcements to cover this the weekend of May 2-3.
 - 1.1: Increase weekly Mass attendance from 950 → 1200: **1160**
 - 1.2: Increase parishioners who strongly agree that St. Bridget is welcoming from 29% → 45%: **39%**
 - 2.1: Hold monthly retreats and workshop and average 100 attendees: we are now holding monthly events, John needs to pull attendees from Marisa
 - 2.2: Increase parishioners who strongly agree St. Bridget grows their confidence in Church teaching from 12% → 22%: **18%**
 - 3.1: Create a mentoring program with at least 24 mentors: John needs to get exact mentor counts from the team
 - 3.2: Have 25% of parishioners report that they have discussed the faith with others at least weekly: **10%**

New Business

- Working on nominations for next parish council

Parishioner Feedback/Suggestion Box

- (none this month)

Formation

- (skipped this month due to the length of business)

Adjournment

- Fr. Patrick said a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned 7:04 PM