

Saint Bridget Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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

Opening

- 6:01 PM – Meeting was called to order by Bruce Slough
- Opening prayer, Father Ken

Liaison Reports

Liturgy – Mike Wilder

- Alter server training completed: Many new servers (hurray!)
- Liturgy committee not meeting in June, tentative for July
- Ascension: 1 confirmation at 730a Mass
- Pentecost: 7 new Catholics and 1 confirmation at 11a Mass
- Holy Trinity: Fr. Godfred celebrating all Masses and giving update on his orphanage
 - Second collection and table in the commons for the orphanage
- Corpus Christi: procession after morning Masses
 - 9am: Out the front steps and around the parking lot
 - 11am: around St. Stephen's, to Grove and back\
 - Seeking young adults to take pictures!
- Sacred Heart of Jesus: regular weekday Mass on June 12
- May 29: closing Mass for school
- Avi will continue at St. Bridget until August
- Brother Paul will be in the rectory for the summer, studying hospital ministry and ministering at St. Mary's (no specific parish involvement)
- Attendance: steady increase over the past year! 950 → 1150 per weekend
 - Now regularly opening the commons for 9a and sometimes at 11a
 - Potential for new TV screen in the commons
 - TVs in commons and nursery have been repaired and have live video / audio
 - Should we have eucharistic ministers in the commons? See New Business
 - Would adding Children's Liturgy to the 11a Mass help? See New Business

Christian Formation-Kristine Keeney

- Due to large numbers at Children's Liturgy, Marisa is considering running a pre-K faith formation option in case we cannot reliably get enough volunteers for Children's Liturgy

- First Holy Communion: 85 recipients in the first two weekends of May!
- 110 students signed up for VBS, heavy on 4th and 5th grade, space to add younger kids to get up to 120 attendees
- Staff re-organization
 - Mary Rebecca is retiring from her faith formation role, Marisa is taking
 - Marisa moving some adult faith formation duties to Patrick
 - We'll hire for a middle school role and Marisa will oversee faith formation as a whole
 - Also an opportunity to create/expand young adult ministry here

Social Ministry- Julia Williams

This month, social ministry is transitioning to planning events for summer and the remainder of the year. We have the second half of Human Concerns spotlights to share starting in June and our last second collection for the support of this grant on June 6th and 7th. We are slightly behind meeting our commitments and this could impact them receiving the full amount after the close of the fiscal year.

Blackwell ES- Had a successful cookie collection and teacher appreciation event this month. They also hosted the welcome table after all masses the first weekend of May. It was successful as they met some new folks and handed out information about their ministry and answered general parish questions.

Haiti- The Diocesan Summit meeting was well attended, and the Diocese is still encouraging each twin to help transition to self-sustaining and practical means for the future. We heard the latest about what aid has been able to get into those who need it and the current obstacles. We will have a roof fundraiser here at Saint Brigid in June during VBS week. Participants and families can "buy a shingle" and there will be a mock shelter to have them displayed for the week and at church that weekend of the 14th.

Feeding ministries- We continue to see positive things from this group, and we are evaluating the signups to ensure coverage is there for the summer season. Have been communicating with folks to be sure to look ahead and plan accordingly. Also have pitched at masses for new folks to get involved.

Walking with Moms- had to pivot with the Tea event due to circumstances with the attendees. We provided gift bags for Commonwealth Catholic Charities, East End PRC, Mary's Choice, Millies Home and Metro PRC the included journals, baked goods, personal care products and more. They were well received by all!! We have our next meeting on June 1 and will have events throughout the summer and tours for all who are interested.

Saint Brigid Builds- we had several parishioners participate in the build week. I am surveying them about their experience, and we may have found a member to chair this group who is newer to the parish and retired. This would be an exciting development to enable monthly projects for interested members of the parish.

I have begun updating the social ministry page for the website and will continue to do so with updated information and links for folks to find help and resources as well as get plugged into service activities going on in the church. It will also have links for the Human Concerns grant and when available and information on the recipients.

Evangelization and Community Life - Mike Kozak

- Engagement committee meets tomorrow so their report is coming soon, they are focused on longer-range planning and have scheduled the parish picnic for Sep 20.
- National Eucharistic pilgrimage coming, local events June 3 and 4
- U of R outreach: possibility of a FOCUS chapter
 - Already have 4 in Richmond diocese (inc. VT, JMU, W+M)
 - Those 4 have diocesan funding because they are larger schools
 - Check with the diocesan Evangelization team to understand the options here

Pastor Report - Fr. Ken

- Need to repair the main AC units heading into the summer
- Church and school doing annual endowment draws
- Church and school submitted annual budgets
 - School budgeted for 470 students, currently slightly over this
 - School considering a third JK classroom to make the waitlist there shorter, though we don't have an obvious space for it
 - Potential to renovate part of the rectory for school office space and have the vacated school office space become another classroom
- We still owe \$1.4M on the middle school, due in a balloon payment in 3 years. High confidence that we can pay that off with current assets, but to be aware of.
- Westhampton Field; long-term lease we have as a playing field
 - We are reviewing the lease to see if we have an obligation to build bathrooms there (even though we lease but do not own the land). If there is no legal obligation to build, we may put in a bathroom trailer instead.

Principal Report

- (skipped since Meghan was not in attendance)

Old Business

- John to find out how far ahead we need to get the Jan 2027 survey scheduled with the Catholic Leadership Institute
- The welcome table continues to go very well - new names and conversations every weekend. At least one person came over after their first Mass at St B and now is sponsored for confirmation!
- Bulletin information on which activities and when has been great to have centralized!

New Business

- Incoming parish council members: Madison Beebe, Gayla Whittaker, Derek Wilson
- How do we react to the increased Mass attendance, especially at 9a?
 - Should we have eucharistic ministers in the commons? The maintenance staff are already always on call to put out seating.
 - Would adding Children's Liturgy to the 11a Mass help?
 - Faith formation at 1030 strongly drives families to 9a and away from 11a. Would moving it or running it twice help?
 - What Mass time change ideas would help?
 - Directions
 - New Mass time
 - Add a Mass at 1230p
 - Move UofR Mass to 7p and add a 5p Sunday Mass
 - Move 11a to 1145a so that you can attend faith formation and still go to the later Mass
 - Move activities
 - Move faith formation or hold it twice
 - Accept overflow
 - Always have chairs in the commons for 9am, consider whether we need to build an additional bathroom
 - Renovate to create more seating
 - The diocese will require that we have considered the options above before pursuing this.

T Parishioner Feedback/Suggestion Box

- Can we have 7am Mass daily? Due to school time, I can't make the 8am time.

Formation

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

Adjournment

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