

Saint Bridget Parish Council Minutes
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Fr. Ken Shuping PRESENT ▾	Maria Brown [2nd] PRESENT ▾
Fr. Patrick Ssekibaala ABSENT ▾	Stephen DeMauri [2nd] PRESENT ▾
Meghan Hess, Principal ABSENT ▾	Mike Kozak [2nd] PRESENT ▾
Mike Wilder [3rd] PRESENT ▾	Gayla Whittaker [1st] PRESENT ▾
John Rogers [3rd] PRESENT ▾	Derek Wilson [1st] PRESENT ▾
Julia Williams [3rd] PRESENT ▾	Madison Beebe [1st] PRESENT ▾

Opening

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

Year-Opening Business

- Introduction of new members
- Read through Called to Serve: Diocesan Policies for Pastoral Councils
- Determine officers:
 - **Chair:** John Rogers
 - **Secretary:** Derek Wilson
 - **Liaison for Liturgy:** Derek Wilson
 - **Liaison for Formation:** Gayla Whittaker
 - **Liaison for Social Ministry:** Mike Kozak
 - **Liaison for Community Life and Evangelization:** Madison Beebe
 - **Suggestion Box:** Stephen DeMauri

Liaison Reports

Liturgy, Christian Formation, Social Ministry, Evangelization and Community Life

Skipped since at the first meeting of the year, new liaisons haven't had time to gather a report.

Pastor Report - Fr. Ken

- Returning topic: overflow at the 9am Mass will be coming back as the school year starts. How should we best address this?
 - Options considered at the last meeting
 - Have both a 5p and 7p Mass, one at the University of Richmond
 - Add a 1230pm Mass
 - Move the 11am Mass later so that faith formation can fall between the morning Masses
 - Move faith formation or hold it twice

- Accept overflow and plan for it, more chairs in the common rooms, consider renovating bathrooms
 - What about adding a 4th morning Mass?
 - 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm
 - Then, families attending faith formation could attend either the 9am or the noon Mass.
 - Where would we put donuts? Over into the meeting room instead of the commons.
 - Impact of donuts on faith formation: teachers have commented that student behavior is much worse on donut Sundays
 - With a new Mass, would traffic be much worse between Masses?
 - Folks leaving after 9am Mass, others arriving for 1030 Mass and faith formation at the same time
- Influx of new parishioners not yet reflected in volunteers
 - We're running low on extraordinary ministers, children's liturgy volunteers, etc
 - Can we set the expectations for children's ministries that parents should expect to volunteer?
 - Can we have a QR code or other way to make it super easy to know how to volunteer?
 - A good topic for this year: figure out how to invite new parishioners into ministries so that we have enough volunteers to serve our larger congregations.
- Prayer list change
 - We're moving to a physical prayer list in the commons. Have you heard complaints about the online system we're replacing? No one on council had this on their radar or had heard concerns about it.
- Abortion amendment referendum this fall
 - Several activities including speaker at the parish, TV ad, and more.
- Parish picnic set for Sep 20 at noon
 - Council and committee members strongly encouraged to attend
- The climbing tree has begun to rot and needs to be taken down 😞
 - The tree is beloved, we will set a date and communicate when it will be cut down, and plan a planting ceremony to replace it.
- Oct 4th - blessing of animals on the 800th anniversary of St. Francis' death

Principal Report

- (skipped since Meghan was not in attendance - first day of school was today!)
- We briefly covered the planning for the Oct 3 event for the 75th anniversary of the school, as well as the Feb 5 Bulldog Gala.

Old Business

- None at this meeting

New Business

- None at this meeting

TParishioner Feedback/Suggestion Box

- None at this meeting

Formation

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

Adjournment

- Fr. Ken said a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned 7:01 PM