

**St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
Parish Council Meeting June 4, 2024
Draft Minutes**

- Opening Prayer
- Roll Call
 - Present: Karla Hudecek, Janine Berkovitz, Charles Williams, Fr. Varghese, Matt Hayes, Rocky Marsh, Fred Chandler, Geoff Ziegler, Patrick Price, John Sobotowski, Chris Durnil
 - Absent: Mary Catharine Grau, Tim Nation, Sheila Brown, Rachel Hudson
- Approval of minutes from April 2024 meeting
 - Geoff Ziegler moved to approve the minutes from April; Charles Williams seconded it.
 - Unanimously approved.
- Comments from pastor and/or pastoral associate
 - Fr. Varghese
 - Appointed Members beginning July 1 (departing appointed members: Janine Bercovitz, Grace DeMoss, Tin Nation, Charles Williams)
 - Tim will be replaced by Jim Trippi
 - Charles will be replaced by Evalyn Ridley-Turner
 - Janine will be replaced by Nancy Starr
 - Grace will be replaced by Geoff Ziegler
 - Mary Rice will be named the as appointed Liturgy Chair beginning in July.
 - There will soon be an additional appointed member of the Parish Council
 - The appointments have been approved by the council.
 - Karla Hudecek: no comments
- Approval of change in Parish Constitution language from Pillar to Ministry Leader
 - Patrick Price moves to approve the new Constitution. Charles seconded it. The new constitution is approved unanimously.
- Identification of Executive Committee
 - Beginning July 1, Patrick Price will be President, Fred Chandler will be Vice President, and Geoff Ziegler will be Secretary.
 - Matt Hayes and Rocky Marsh will not continue in their roles for President and Vice President but remain on council for one more year.
- Buildings and Grounds
 - Updates (Chris Durnil)
 - Bathroom remodels have begun!
 - New Foundations
 - A \$25,000 grant was given to help offset some of the costs of fundraising.
 - There has been an addendum (required by the Archdiocese) to the contract with Cape Fletcher (feasibility consultant) to ensure all financial and giving details remain confidential.
 - Some roof repairs have been identified.
 - The finance committee is working with Buildings and Grounds on the strategic planning for needed capital updates.

- STA Strategic Plan Goals
 - Reports on 2024-25 objectives and actions
 - Spiritual Growth: No update
 - Stewardship: Geoff Ziegler (see page 3)
 - Stewardship letter will be sent out soon (end of fiscal year instead of calendar year)
 - Volunteer for Sausagefest!
 - New 5k
 - Gala tickets are now available!
 - Community Engagement: No update
 - STA School: No update
 - Dialogue, Truth, Faith: T No update.
- Finance Committee: John Sobotowski (see page 7-8)
 - 3.9% higher giving than at this point last year.
 - May and June of last fiscal year, so if that's maintained, it would be good for this year.
 - School families have been contacted about their giving.
 - Do we need to update our budget since we haven't met that number for years and years?
 - School has done a great job at acquiring grants!
 - Working on electronic fundraising options.
- Other Pillar Reports and additional items of interest
 - Spiritual Life: Fred Chandler (see pages 4-6)
 - Future Meetings: 7-8:30 pm (unless otherwise noted):
 - August 6
 - October 1
 - December 3
 - February 4
 - April 1
 - June 3
- Ending prayer

Stewardship Notes – STA PC – June 4, 2024

Gala

- November 9, 2024 – Indianapolis Artsgarden (downtown)
- Steering Committee has met four times (fourth being last night, June 3)
- Save the Date Communications are out.
- Early Bird Ticket options until July 31 – [click here for more](#)
 - o \$275 for 2 guests (\$25 savings)
 - o \$1,100 for 8 guests (\$100 savings)

SausageFest

- August 16/17, 2024
- Volunteer options now available – [click here for more](#)
- STA 5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Run on Thursday, 8/15 – [Register Here](#)

Annual Stewardship Pledge

- Letter approved by Fr. Varghese
- Actively working with STA office staff to get this mailed out.
- This aligns with Objective 2.2 from PC Strategic Plan.

June 2024 Report from Spiritual Life Pillar, Fred Chandler

Arts & Environment: Michael Davis, together with George Screes and Steve Gudorf.

- A sub-committee has been set up to further reflect and prepare for the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter celebrations. Committee includes Karla Hudecek, Julie Sherer, Michael Davis, Steve Gudorf and George Screes. The goal is to evaluate the most recent celebrations to help enhance future celebrations.
- Continued work on cleaning and organizing of various closets and spaces to ensure areas and stored materials are best utilized. No items are disposed of or donated without full evaluation and approval.
- Info center cabinet tops in narthex will receive fresh coat of paint this summer while school is out.
- Continue to review rotating artwork to keep areas fresh and liturgically engaging.
- Revisiting ways A&E can assist Outreach Ministries with Outreach weekend displays.

Bible Study: Jay Kiesler. In preparation for the National Eucharist Conference in Indianapolis July 17-21, St. Thomas Aquinas invites you to a four-part exploration of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Sessions will be offered every Thursday night in June at 7:00 PM in the Bethany Room and will cover these topics:

- **June 6th** – God’s desire to be united with us and how the Eucharist is a personal joining between God and us.
- **June 13th** – Scripture references to Eucharist and what Jesus says about this sacrament.
- **June 20th** -- How the Eucharist sustains us on our spiritual journey and helps us recognize our participation.

in the Mass is an offering of ourselves to God.

- **June 27th** – The personal journey of Parishioner Jay Kiesler -- from blindly accepting Catholic Dogma (mind) to

believing the words of Jesus (heart).

The Bible Study Group will conduct the second half of their study of Isaiah this fall. The group will gather at 1:00 PM on

— September 12 and 26,

— October 10 and 24, and

— November 14 and 21

The Leadership is looking at modifying the evening, 7:00 PM, sessions. These sessions had a low attendance with 6 people being the maximum number of attendees. We are looking at either canceling the evening session or having only virtual gatherings.

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Religious Ed: RE is on summer break.

Eucharistic Ministers/Greeters/Lectors/Musicians: Lectors were blessed on Pentecost, May 18-19. The Blessing of Music Ministers will be June 8/9. The Blessing of Greeters will be Sept 7/8.

Ministry to the Homebound: This ministry is slowly reactivating. If you know of homebound parishioners who would be interested in receiving Communion, contact Matt Lorch in the Parish Office.

Centering Prayer: The group continues to meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

Morning prayer: Bill Scott. The Morning Prayer group is still going strong. The group continues to meet weekdays at 7:45 in the Bosler Chapel and typically have a group of 4-6 people. The gatherings last 15-20 minutes.

Prayer Power: Sheila Pluckebaum. To request prayers, email Sheila at sheilapluck@sbcglobal.net

RCIA: So far, we have 3 prospective candidates for 2025 - before any advertising.

Retreats for men and women:

Sacramental Prep: We've had 11 baptisms to date, compared with 7 over the same period in 2023. Confirmation sessions will be moved to Saturday evenings after the 5:30 Mass to increase Mass attendance, as well as avoid Sunday sports and extracurricular conflicts.

Youth Ministry:

Vacation Bible School: SCUBA VBS – Diving into Friendship with God – will be **June 17-21, 2024**. The numbers have exploded this year with earlier and focused promotions -- 42 elementary school kiddos this summer, compared with 24 in 2023. This is the largest group we've ever had at STA!

Liturgy Committee: The next adult choir practice is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5th in the church. Come join us! All youth are welcome to sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 9th. Please come to practice that day at 9:30 a.m. in the church. Questions? Please email Katie Schafer at kschafer@staindy.org. The Blessing of Altar Servers will be August 24/25. A Morning of Reflection for Liturgical Minister is scheduled for September 28. The committee will be considering possibilities for a three-day parish mission and possible bus trips to nearby shrines.

Eucharistic Revival: Adult volunteers are desperately needed!

- Several day-passes and carpooling opportunities are now available. Contact the parish office if you're interested.
- Karla is organizing a service opportunity for middle school and high school students on the Sunday before the Congress starts -- Stuffing swag bags for attendees.

The **10th National Eucharistic Congress** (NEC) will be held on **July 17-21, 2024**, in Indianapolis, primarily at Lucas Oil Stadium and in surrounding venues. As the defining event of a five-year National Eucharistic Revival, the NEC is an opportunity for Catholics across the United States to be “healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist”—and then to be sent out on mission, newly inspired and “on fire” with the love of Christ and His Holy Spirit.

The Week at a Glance

Each day of the National Eucharistic Congress is guided by a theme drawn from Scripture:

- From the Four Corners (Wednesday)
- The Greatest Love Story (Thursday)
- Into Gethsemane (Friday)
- This is My Body (Saturday)
- To the Ends of the Earth (Sunday)

A discounted registration fee of \$274 has been offered for those of us in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

In addition, day passes will be available for purchase in January:

Wednesday, July 17, Adults - \$49, Teens - \$20, and Children (12 & under) – Free

Thursday, July 18, Adults - \$95, Teens - \$75, and Children (12 & under) – Free

Friday, July 19, Adults - \$95, Teens - \$75, and Children (12 & under) – Free

Saturday, July 20, and Sunday, July 21, Adults - \$125, Teens - \$80, and Children (12 & under) - Free

A Daily Schedule for the National Eucharistic Congress is live on the official website, <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>. You can now explore what this incredible experience will look like day by day.

Preview the options for Impact Sessions in the morning that speak to your particular vocation and mission. Then, get excited for the dynamic **revival sessions**, when the whole assembly will gather in Lucas Oil Stadium to experience the power and love of Jesus. These sessions—and the soon-to-be-announced afternoon breakout sessions—will be led by the expansive list of Faithful Speakers who will join us in Indianapolis this summer.

Finance Committee

Parish Council Report: June 4th, 2024

- Fiscal year 2023-24 giving was 3.9% higher than prior fiscal year-to-date – this covers July-April 2023.

STA Finance Committee Meeting – April 16th, 2024

Financial Statements Update

- Collections were 7.4% below budget for fiscal year. Budget corresponds to target of \$25/week per registered household.
- United Catholic Appeal: as of 5/21/2024 parish has reached 41% of assigned \$64,000 goal, with 65 donors participating.
- Received \$25k grant to offset restroom cost.

New Business

- Continuing search for electronic giving options.
- Voted not to move forward with Positive Pay, leaving open to review.
- Approved Dine to Donate request for PA to coincide with Grandparents Day
- Discussed budgeting for maintenance requests in this year's budget. Partner with school and grounds to understand future needs. I.e., roofs, continued elevator requests and understanding what infrastructure is beyond its useful life.
- Continued SF and fundraiser discussion with a vote scheduled for June.

Next Finance Committee meeting: June 28th, 2024.

- Votes on SF and Fundraisers anticipated.
- Review and approval of parish budget.
- Revisit movement of funds to ADLF

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and School, Indianapolis

Summary of Financial Activity for Fiscal Year-to-date: July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

Revenues – to nearest thousand	Period Over/(Under) Budget	
Sunday Collections	601,000	(48,000)
Tuition & Fees	1,571,000	198,000
Other Revenue	162,000	52,000
<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>\$2,334,000</u>	<u>\$202,000</u>
Expenses – to nearest thousand	YTD	(Over)/Under Budget
Salaries and Benefits	(1,301,000)	207,000
Archdiocese Assessments	(157,000)	(600)
Spiritual Life & Programming	(62,000)	22,000
Property, Facility, Utilities	(220,000)	(37,000)
Other Expenses	(210,000)	24,000
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$(1,950,000)</u>	<u>216,000</u>
Net Income:	\$418,000	