

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING - March 19, 2025**

The Finance Council of Divine Grace Parish met for a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at St. Ferdinand's Church, McAndrew/Biller Hall. The meeting was called to order by Jamie Shearer, Chair, with an opening prayer by Father Jim.

Those in attendance: Father James Wehner, Jamie Shearer, Amy Behun, Peter Boyer, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Daniel Jenkins, Chelsey Knapton, Licia Lentz, Kate Maseth-Ready, Frances Tartal.

Staff attending: John Greci

Excused: Joe Ennis, Frank Lordi, Andrew Welch

**A. BRIEF REPORTS AND UPDATES:**

1. St. Gregory Organ Funding and Restoration has \$281,000 in hand, and we are waiting on a few more donors for gift or pledge. We are on track for a finish date by the end of August or the beginning of September 2025.

2. St. Agatha School update: the appeal date for taxes is March 26, 2025. Diocesan lawyers are meeting with potential buyers of this property.

3. MyCatholicWill.com was updated by John Greci. John reported that one person has used it so far. John felt the website is a bit confusing, and he would have thought that after five years, there could have been a more fluid start. It will continue to be mentioned in the bulletin. John will continue as the point person.

4. Executive Session Update from the February meeting was discussed.

5. 2025 Annual Parish Appeal Presentations and results: At this writing, we are at \$230,000, almost one half of our assessment. Pledges continue to come in. Jamie Shearer thanked Frances Tartal for the Appeal Script, and all the Finance Council presenters at the weekend masses.

6. Ritzer Hall is currently being appraised, which is a 28-day process. The expenses are running approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year. Father Jim is planning a town hall meeting with parishioners to garner feedback on the potential sale of the property. Father Jim does not expect any pushback from parishioners once he explains the annual cost of operations. We should then proceed with putting the property on the market. Kate Maseth-Ready mentioned it might be worth letting NexTier Bank know of our intention with the property, as it is in Evans City. They, or clients, may have need for such a property. She will draft an email to Lara Wozniak at NexTier Bank

**B. ACTION ITEMS:**

1. The minutes of the February 19, 2025, meeting were read and approved with a motion by Frances Tartal, second by Licia Lentz and approved with a unanimous voice vote.
2. The review of the financial statements through February 2025 was presented by Father Jim. We continue to be in excellent financial shape; while some line items are in red due to administration expenses, reflecting new hires, and maintenance expenses are \$150,000 in red due to computer upgrades, gas expense reflecting the harsh Winter, and equipment expense. Overall, revenue vs expenses are \$43,000.00 in the black.
3. Draft review of Parish Employee Performance Review Document. Licia Lentz and Felicia DiNardo did an excellent job of creating and presenting a form for Parish Employee Performance Appraisals. Father Jim will be meeting with staff department management to “fine tune” and prepare to implement this process.

**C. BIG THINK:**

1. 2025-2026 budget building timeline and assignments: Amy Behun and Andrew Welch will meet with John Greci to assist in preparing a well-constructed budget, The draft of which is to be completed by the end of May 2025 to permit additions, corrections and/or changes. The final budget should be submitted to the Diocese by the end of June 2025.
2. Parish Staffing is close to 100%. We are continuing to search for an individual to serve as the Youth Ministry staff member for the Northern area churches, given the success of the present one at the St. Ferdinand Campus.
3. Town Hall Meeting: Father Jim will be holding a town meeting on March 31, 2025, to present and gather ideas for the renovation of Oldenski Hall on the St. Ferdinand Campus. The Church Alive funds currently available for this project are \$2,700,000.00. The total renovation could come in around \$6-7,000,000.00. This project could be a two- year project, with a completion date in 2027.

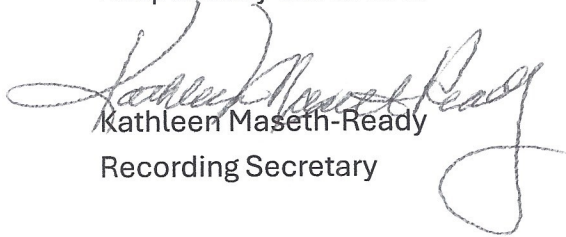
**D. MOVING FORWARD:**

1. Stewardship Initiatives going forward will include Diocesan support, with Finance Council members meeting and deciding how to present programs to our growing Faith population.

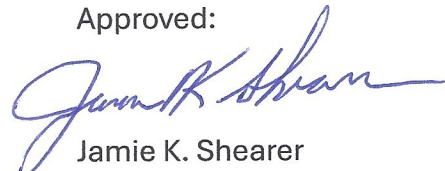
There being no further business, Father Jim offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

The next regular meeting of the Divine Grace Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6:30 PM, at the St. Ferdinand's Campus

Respectfully submitted:

  
Kathleen Maseth-Ready  
Recording Secretary

Approved:

  
Jamie K. Shearer  
Chair