



# St. Louis Catholic Church

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## Parish Council Minutes February 21, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nathan Wanstrath at 7:00 PM.

### **Attendance:**

Fr. Randy Summers, Chairperson Nathan Wanstrath, Secretary Sebastian Moster, Amy Tonges, Linda Siefert, DeeDee Kaiser, MaryJo Wuestefeld, Jason Burlage, TJ Greene, Ryan Rahe, and Kevin Chaffee.

### **Opening Prayer:**

The opening prayer was given by Linda Siefert.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Kevin Chaffee and seconded by Father to approve the minutes. A copy of the minutes will be placed in the binder in the back of church and emailed to the parish secretary.

### **Pastor's Report:**

As discussed at the January meeting, 61 families show "inactive" by envelopes. Father shared the list of inactives with the Council. Following discussion, it was decided that we would divide the list, and each Council Member would contact a few of the families by phone.

HVAC system need is being revisited. Perhaps a loan from the archdiocese would be available for this project. Eric Atkins is helping with that application process.

Tuition billing was discussed, in light of the newly-created voucher system. How do we balance our system of reduced tuition for multiple children with the voucher reimbursement? Also, some families are likely to have older children that were at SLS before the voucher system was created, and also younger ones who are eligible for the payments. Amy Tonges is to contact Kathy Mears for guidance on this issue.

Harry Plummer and Glen Tebbe had met with Father regarding tuition issue.

There will be a Lenten Penance Service held at Saint Louis. This is consolidated with the St. Anthony and St. Nicholas parishes.

### **New Business:**

Parish Council Elections – No elected members' terms are expiring this year, we are not planning an election. However, Nathan Wanstrath announced his intention to surrender his appointed position on the Council. We will solicit volunteers to join Parish Council through a bulletin announcement soon.

**Reports:**

Commission reports had been sent out prior to the meeting to all council and committee members for review. (They are attached to these minutes.) Amy Tonges shared a copy of the new postcard promoting SLS Kindergarten that is referenced in the School Commission report.

**Old Business:**

No additional old business was revisited at this meeting.

**Closing Prayer:**

The closing prayer was lead by Nathan Wanstrath. The next parish council meeting is scheduled for April 17 in back room of the Parish office.

**Development Report**  
**Parish Council**  
February 21, 2012

Received notice from Kroger Foundation that we will be getting a check for \$3,500.00 toward purchase of iPad2s.

Still working on grant for Honda---\$25,000.00 for 13 Interactive White Boards; have \$14,500.00 toward the total, \$39, 600.00

Annual Fund slowed down considerable after December; only \$1895.00.

Will attend (listen in) another seminar from ISPD on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb. “Proper Catholic Development Language”, in preparation for next Annual Fund letter.

Working on “International Tasting Cuisine” with Parish Life---Date: Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 4:00 until 7:00 pm in old gym---families invited, no cost. Hope to have 10 different countries represented.

**School Commission Report**  
**2/21/12**

1. We designed a 6 X 11 postcard promoting Kindergarten open house. We mailed 283 on Friday. We will be distributing more to area preschools, as well as hanging them on local bulletin boards. We are reaching out to all local Catholic parishes that do not have schools.
2. Jill Koch and Amy Tonges met with Father Dave, Janie Obermeyer and Marie Gosemeyer of Holy Family Church. We will have tables in the back of Holy Family the weekend of Mar 10 to promote St. Louis School and the SGO and Voucher programs.
3. Please read the principal's report below. There are some awesome things happening at our school.

**From the Principal:**

**Retention/Recruitment**

1. Congratulations to Jenny Lents and her eighth grade language arts classes. They were selected as The Herald Tribune's Classroom of the Month for January for writing books with their second grade buddies.
2. We had the preschool open house on Thursday, January 26.
3. A letter explaining SGO's and Vouchers was given to the preschool parents. I later received a call about the vouchers from an interested parent.
4. The Criterion ran a story on the SLS students donating money to help Kyle Jolly's baby. It was on page B5 of the January 27 Catholic Schools Week edition. The following is an email communication with the writer John Shaughnessy:

John,

I wanted to say thank you for doing such a great job with the article about Kyle Jolly and the kids. People are telling me they get chills reading it, because they are so moved. Chad Moeller  
St. Louis School

Thanks for the note, Chad, and for making me aware of the story. I was honored to share it. It's a great reflection of your school, your teachers, your students and your families. Take care.  
All the best to you,  
John

## Miscellaneous

1. This is an email I sent to SLS staff:

I kind of just threw it out there in our staff meeting on Monday, so I want to say it again. In an IEP meeting with ROD on Monday morning, the ROD representative made the following comment to me, "I wish most of the other schools I go to would do what you do with RTI and they have been doing it a lot longer." Congratulations to all! After only one and a half years into this process, ROD considers us at an elite level. It goes to show that this group is hands down the best at whatever you do. Individually you are all good, but together you continually amaze me! Thank you, Chad

2. Email from Wade about our inspection by the fire marshal:

Just a quick note concerning our State inspection December 27, 2011:

The state inspector found our school to be compliant from the initial findings. He stated on numerous occasions how he was impressed with our school and found it to be one of the best he has inspected over the years. He also commented that we were proactive and positive verses just reactive and defensive.

I credit each of you for your cooperation and communication to make this possible.

Thanks,  
Wade

3. Our January staff meeting was centered on school safety, specifically intruders and lock downs.
4. SGO money continues to come in (one \$50 and two \$100 donations).
5. Congratulations to Josie Wessler! Josie is our school spelling bee champion, and we just received word that she will be representing St. Louis School in the regional spelling bee on February 25th in Cincinnati. Josie had to take a fifty-word, online spelling test to see if she qualified to move to the next round. Good luck, Josie!
6. One of our employees was talking with a bus driver at some event. The bus driver commented that, "St. Louis does a great job getting their kids out of the building and onto the buses."
7. The students collected 817 items for the food pantry during Catholic Schools Week. Our original goal was for 500 items.
8. We have great kids! The following is an email I received after the talent show:

I wanted to let you know how awesome the boys did today while the staff was at their lunch. Not only did they work their own shift, but a second one as well. There was some confusion as to who worked when but the boys worked with no complaint and did a fabulous job. Mrs. Wanstrath said she barely had to do much because the boys were on top of things. It is great to have such awesome workers/students. Thanks!

Thanks and have a nice day.  
SLS Cafeteria Staff

## Faith Formation Commission Report February 21, 2012

*The Great Adventure Bible* Timeline series continues with 20-30 participants on Monday nights and an additional 16 on Friday mornings. Each session consists of a DVD talk by Jeff Cavins and a short discussion. It is a 24 week program that will be spread out through the year. We are currently on session 6 and the book of Exodus.

The First Thursday Holy Hour for Vocations has moved to Sunday evenings. The first was Super Bowl Sunday with a group of about 30.

For Lent, Faith Formation is encouraging Random Acts of Kindness. There are cards available in church to share with others. Also, Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday evenings at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Koehne