

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## January 20, 2026

### I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer. Longtime parishioner Paul Clark had just passed away earlier that day so the entire Parish Council prayed for him and his family.

President Laurie Kraemer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Laurie Kraemer, Craig Knutson, Janet Burns, Laurie Swinney, Craig Pfau, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** Ken Vacek, Rhonda Varriano, Brent Lahr, Erin Perronteau, Fr. Seth
- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the last meeting (Nov. 25) were approved.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Janet Burns reported parishioners Lawrence & Marian Foerster recently lost everything when their house burned down Jan. 10. It'll be put in the bulletin how people can donate to help them. The Altar Society has served a number of funeral lunches recently. Every December the Altar Society donates \$10,000 to the parish. For next December, the Altar Society hopes their \$10,000 donation will go to purchase a new Nativity set for the parish. The next Altar Society meeting will be held Feb. 10 in the Pastoral Ctr. An event—*Step into Spring*—is being planned for the last Saturday in April—April 25. It will be a luncheon/style show.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC's have donated \$5000 for the painting of the statues. The number of tickets to be sold for the upcoming Meat Raffle will increase from 500 to 600 this year. The Knights will again help with the Parish Fish Fry to be held Friday, Feb. 27. (That date won't interfere with the Confirmation retreats to be held Sat., Feb. 21, & Sat., March 7.) They hope to have a planning meeting on Feb. 5. Last year approximately \$1400 was taken in. This year we want to advertise it sooner. The KC State Convention will be April 10-12.
- **Bridge Builders:** No report since the Bridge Builders had not met.

### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** No report. Marie Vetter is supposed to be the representative. Fr. Courtright said that since Marie's office is at the school now, he doesn't see her as much. However, all Religious Education classes are now held at either the Pastoral Ctr. or in the church basement—nothing at the school anymore.
- **Finance Council:** No meeting was held so no report.
- **Pastor's Report:**
  - Fr. Courtright said there has been a number of baptisms recently.
  - Emily White is now at a convent in North Carolina. Rose Kraemer is helping out for the time being, taking over Emily's responsibilities. Fr. Courtright says Rose is very organized & efficient! However, Rose will be leaving in March for a period of time. She will be an aspirant at a Carmelite convent in New York.
  - **St. Carlo Acutis Middle School update:** The Lynch Development Associates have determined that \$7.2 million could be raised for the new school building. A council member asked Fr. Courtright if now was really the right time to be building it. Fr. Courtright said he thought it *was* the right time—in fact even smaller towns in our Diocese are expanding their Catholic schools.

- A council member asked when are the courtyard doors to the church locked? Fr. Courtright said they are on an automatic timer. They unlock at 5:30 am and lock at 9 pm. It was suggested that there be better lighting at that entrance or maybe a motion light.  
A question was also asked if the Pastoral Ctr was locked when the parish office was closed. Fr. Courtright said he'd check on that.
- We've now paid for our new church roof. One-half of the funds came from our Repair Account and the other half was borrowed from the Diocese.

## V. Old & Current Business

- **Update on Beautification Committee plans:** Fr. Courtright reported he hopes to have a Beautification report soon. Bids are still being sought for the painting of the church. One contractor has backed out. Billy Rerick is interested in doing a bid.  
Fr. Courtright asked if the two luminous angels on the back altar should be painted? They don't match the other statues. Maybe these angels should be put in the school.  
When the church is repainted, the gold leaf will need to be redone. Gold leaf is very expensive. Is there something less expensive?  
Fr. Courtright mentioned that the "Divine Mercy" picture in the church had disappeared some time ago, but we now have it replaced.
- **Parish Council "Meet & Greet" Weekend:** At the Masses the weekend of Jan. 24-25, we hope to have Parish Council members give pulpit pitches and also be at the back of the church to greet people. Maybe name tags could be worn.
- **Update on the Parish By-Laws:** This was tabled until the next meeting because there was not a quorum present (66% of voting members).

## VI. New Business

- **Parish Council Email:** The Parish Council has its own email address: [parish.council@stmichaelsgf.com](mailto:parish.council@stmichaelsgf.com) & this will be published in the bulletin. All Parish Council communication (minutes, agendas, etc.) will now come from this email address instead of from personal email addresses.
- There was a fire in the church on Jan. 10 before the 5 pm Sat. Mass. Two of the small evergreen trees near the Advent wreath were completely consumed. A council member remarked that we need to learn where the fire extinguishers are kept. Maybe someone from the Fire Dept. could meet with staff about measures to be taken. Craig Knutson said he knew someone at the Fire Dept. that perhaps he could ask. Also, council members asked who is supposed to shovel the church steps when there is snow. It was remarked that we need better shovels at the doorways.
- The *Home School* Graduation will be held at 10 am in the church basement on Sat., May 23. The Altar Society is charging \$100 for the use of the basement (the standard use fee for groups of 50 or more).
- **Giving Hearts Day** is coming up on Thursday, Feb. 12. We hope to raise money for our parish. Sara Dudley is in charge of that.

## VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer:

There being no further business, the meeting closed. The next meeting will be held Feb. 17.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen