

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## February 17, 2026

### I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Fr. Courtright led everyone in the opening prayer. It was mentioned that Erin Perronteau's father had just passed away on Feb. 4 and Janet Burns' sister has passed away on Feb. 6. President Laurie Kraemer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Laurie Kraemer, Craig Knutson, Janet Burns, Rhonda Varriano, Brent Lahr, Craig Pfau, Erin Perronteau, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** Ken Vacek, Lori Swinney, Marie Vetter, Fr. Seth
- **Approval of Minutes:** Janet Burns motioned to approve the Jan. meeting's minutes. Seconded by Craig Knutson. Motion passed.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Janet Burns reported that the Altar Society had their first meeting for 2026 on Feb. 10. They are getting ready for their "Step into Spring with Style" Luncheon & Fashion Show on Sat., April 25. Some models from the parish have already been lined up. Tickets will be \$15/each with a max. of 150 to be sold. A luncheon with chicken salad croissants will be served at 11:30 am with the fashion show starting about 12:15 pm. There will be fashions from four local boutiques—who will also donate gift cards. Msgr. Pilon has talked to the Altar Society about serving the meal for his 50<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary celebration on May 31. The parish office staff, however, will help him make the arrangements for his celebration—sending out invitations, etc.  
Janet Burns commented that the Altar Society hopes to incorporate more fellowship at their meetings.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC's are helping organize the Parish Fish Fry on Friday, Feb. 27. They will be working on getting it ready Feb. 25 & 26. The Knights hope to have their Membership Drive the weekend of March 21-22 when the National Supreme Knight Membership Director will be here. Still pending is perhaps a chili feed to raise money for the Foersters who lost everything in a fire.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney sent the following report: The Bridge Builders met Feb. 5.
  - a) The Accreditation Team has completed their work at St. Michael's and a good report is expected. The next accreditation will be in five years and it will be for the whole All Saints Catholic Schools Network.
  - b) Home & School Association: Their first fundraiser is coming up—skiing in Detroit Lakes
  - c) The Bridge Builders Annual Meeting & Banquet will be held April 23.
  - d) In the coming year, the Tree of Lights will be combined with the "Bridge Builders Sunday" 9 am Mass for improved attendance and awareness.
  - e) The school has requested funding of \$5000 to purchase soft seating for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor landing area & library.
  - f) Financials: Total assets as of 12/31/25: Investment account balance: \$911,145.83

Checking account balance: \$ 21,622.23

Total: \$932,768.06

Remaining Budget available: Bridge Builders budget remaining: \$8821.96

School budget remaining: \$26,290.54

#### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Parish Education:** No report. Marie Vetter is supposed to be the representative. Parish Council members suggested that perhaps there should be a Parish Ed Committee. Erin Perronteau said she would talk to Marie about that.
- **Finance Council:** They were scheduled to meet the following week—Wed., Feb. 25.
- **Pastor's Report:**
  - The Parish Penance Service will be on Sunday evening, March 15.
  - Confirmation & First Communion is scheduled for 10 am on Saturday, March 21.
  - Fr. Courtright showed council members pictures & floor plans for the proposed new middle school building. (2 floors).
  - Principal Sara Dudley is wondering if the church basement kitchen could be used by the middle school students for their "Life Skills" classes. The Altar Society board & Fr. Courtright will discuss this.
  - Giving Hearts Day raised \$43,000 this year. Although it was advertised that money goes to the parish and not the school, the money also does end up benefiting the school. For example, the parish spent about \$160,000 last year for school scholarships.
  - Coming up is the Diocese's annual God's Gift Appeal as well as the campaign to raise money for the new middle school building.
  - It was mentioned that Holy Family has just opened a preschool and St. Mary's is opening back up their preschool program.
  - Council members said we really need to hear from a member of the Advisory Board for the All Saints Catholic Schools Network. Rhonda Varriano motioned & Fr. Courtright seconded that John Shaft be appointed. He wouldn't need to attend the Parish Council meetings but could just send a written report. Craig Knutson said he would talk to him.

#### V. Old & Current Business

- **Beautification Committee:** Fr. Courtright reported the Beautification Committee met last week. The bid from Henning Restoration is \$550,00. The painting could take 16 weeks. Billy Rerick has also given a bid, but it needs to be revised. The committee is still working on getting another bid. However, before any painting is done, we need to have someone look at the structure of the walls underneath the paint.
- **Parish Council By-Laws:** Council members at the meeting continued to revise and update the by-laws. For example, the All Saints Catholic Schools Network is now included in Article IV. Also, one of the Parish Lay Officers is to attend the Parish Council meetings. Erin Perronteau said she would bring that up at the Finance Council meeting.  
Another change in the by-laws will be that a member can attend and vote electronically if he or she couldn't attend a meeting physically.  
The sentence stating the President votes only to break a tie will be removed.

#### VI. New Business

- **Parish Council Elections:** We need to get people to run for seats on the Parish Council for the new term. Craig Knutson is in charge in getting people to run.

#### VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer:

The next Parish Council meeting will be March 17. Members are asked to wear something green. Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen