

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

June 2, 2026

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

President Laurie Kraemer called the meeting to order.

Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer.

Introduced were the newly-elected council members: Jason Riter & Sarah Wocken.

Also, John Shaft of the All Saints Catholic Schools Advisory Council was introduced.

Seminarian Will Gerads was also introduced. He just finished his second year at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & will be helping out at St. Michael's Parish this summer until the end of July.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Fr. Seth, Laurie Kraemer, Janet Burns, Ken Vasek, Rhonda Varriano, Brent Lahr, Jason Riter, Sarah Wocken, Marie Vetter, Lori Swinney, Erin Perronteau, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Craig Knutson, Craig Pfau
- **Approval of Minutes:** Lori Swinney motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting—held April 21. Seconded by Janet Burns. Motion passed.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Janet Burns reported the First Annual Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show was held Saturday, April 25. One hundred thirty-two tickets were sold and 110 people were fed. We had some fabulous models! There were good comments about the food and nothing was left over. The Altar Society served Msgr. Pilon's 50th Ordination Anniversary reception on May 31. The food was from the Broken Drum, but the Altar Society made the cole slaw & provided bars for dessert. Besides family & friends, the guests attending included the Bishop and approximately twenty priests. Coming up on June 7, the Altar Society is serving Fr. Brendon Schneibel's reception in the Youth Center following his First Mass at 11 am in the church. The Altar Society meets next on June 16 and will elect a new vice-president & treasurer. The goal is still to set up committees so ladies can pick the different areas they are interested in. Janet Burns is still updating the Altar Society's by-laws.
- **Knights of Columbus:** No report. However, it was mentioned that the KC's helped out at Msgr. Pilon's celebration.
- **Bridge Builders:**
 - Marie Vetter reported on the Bridge Builders Banquet held April 23. Approximately 100 people were served. Chef Liz was not available this year to do the meal but she will cook next year. Boss' Pizza & Chicken catered the meal & we got a very good deal—practically at cost. At the banquet the school choir sang. Pope Francis Awards were given to nine deserving students.
 - Lori Swinney gave a report on the Bridge Builders' finances. Year-to-date the Bridge Builders are net \$20,000. Investment Account: \$ 872,554.45
Checking Account: \$ 24,515.22
Total: \$ 897,069.67

The Bridge Builders' operating budget is \$7900. The budget for St. Michael's School is \$22,000. Some of this money is earmarked for new basketball hoops & scoreboard and new matts. \$200 in Scrip gift cards will be donated to the Parish Picnic for door prizes. \$3000 will be donated to the upcoming Gala.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Parish Education:** Marie Vetter reported the K-8 Religious Education ended the first Wed. in May with a closing Mass. Next year we might end with the last class held in April.

The grades for receiving sacraments are as follows:

First Reconciliation will be in 2nd grade.

First Communion will be in 3rd grade. (Since the Bishop won't be there, we can choose the date ourselves)

Confirmation will be in 4th grade.

A retreat is being developed for each of the three years & will integrate all of the sacraments.

However, each retreat will be different.

Marie said student attendance drops off after Confirmation.

It was mentioned that RE students have Adoration once a month (20 min. at the end of class).

- **Finance Council:** Erin Perronteau reported the Finance Council met that day at noon. There has been a drop in giving in the last few months, but we still hope to meet our goal at the end of the year. The Finance Council has gone over next year's budget. There are some changes dealing with the school. The parish is still waiting for the new freezer for the church basement to come. We got a reduced price because of some superficial damage. Our funds for Church Beautification are about \$600,000. We have received about \$75,000 from the Capital Campaign this year and next year will be about \$70,000.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - The "Ignite The Mission" campaign for St. Carlo Acutis Middle School has now raised 40% of the goal of \$8.25 million in pledges. This is from all three parishes.
 - Fr. Courtright mentioned that a study found that while not many young adults attend Mass, those who attended Catholic school were four times more likely to attend Mass.
 - Five new priests are being ordained for our Diocese this coming Saturday and one deacon on Friday.
 - The remaining unpainted statues on the back altar will be painted this summer by Billy Rerick starting this week.

V. Old & Current Business

- **Beautification Committee Update:** Conrad Schmitt from the Conrad Schmitt Studios in Wisconsin met with Fr. Courtright and other members of the Beautification Committee recently. They met for three hours. This is the company which painted the inside of our church back in 1985. Mr. Schmitt really liked the quality of the painting of our Stations of the Cross. He said the plaster on our walls looks all right. He'll be giving us a quote on the walls & ceiling. We'll need to go to other contractors for quotes for the flooring & lighting. We don't need to hire Schmitt for everything nor do we have to do these projects all at once. If we do go with Conrad Schmitt Studios, they'll do a design in about three weeks. If we're going to build a new altar, St. Michael's Parish has someone in-house who can do that for us.

Fr. Courtright asked if maybe the baptismal font should be moved to the entry of the church? Maybe more room should be made for a casket at the back of the church? These are all things to think about. A council member suggested information about the church beautification be put in the bulletin & Flocknote. That way parishioners would know what's going on.

- It was reported that some parishioners are unhappy about the sound system in the church. Are there any members in the church who have expertise in "sound" who could advise us?
- **Parish Council By-Laws:** Throughout this past year the Parish Council under the leadership of Laurie Kraemer has been updating the by-laws. For example, a clarification is that Parish Lay Officers don't have to attend Parish Council meetings unless requested. They are ex officio members and are non-voting. There are eleven voting seats on the council with six being the simple majority for a quorum. The *preferred* method of making a decision on the council is by consensus. Council members went through the by-laws one last time & then took a hard vote. It passed unanimously. These new by-laws will be sent out before the next meeting.

VI. New Business:

- **Parish Picnic:** The Parish Picnic is coming up on Tuesday, June 30, at Lincoln Park. Mass will be at 5:15 pm with the picnic following.
- **Training:** A council member asked if there could be more training for servers, ushers, greeters, etc. A suggestion was made that maybe a medical or law enforcement professional be identified at each Mass. Maybe the ushers should have name tags.
- **Officers:** The Parish Council needs to elect a new President & Vice-President at our August meeting. Janet Burns thanked outgoing President Laurie Kraemer for her leadership & hard work this past year.

VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer:

There being no further business, Laurie Kraemer adjourned the meeting.

Fr. Seth led the closing prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen