St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting
September 15, 2026

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Fr. Courtright said the opening prayer and the new Parish Council President Rhonda Varriano called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Rhonda Varriano, Janet Burns, Ken Vasek, Brent Lahr, Sarah Wocken, Marie Vetter, Craig Pfau, Erin Perronteau, Mary Ann Whalen
  Absent: Fr. Aberle, Jason Riter, Lori Swinney
- **Approval of Minutes:** Brent Lahr motioned that the minutes from the August meeting be approved. Seconded by Janet Burns. Minutes approved.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Janet Burns reported the Altar Society met on Sept. 8. They will start sending out a quarterly newsletter through Flocknote. It will also be posted on the bulletin board at the church entrances.

  The Altar Society is buying a new Nativity set for the church. It's in stock at Hurley's in Fargo. The statues are 48 in. tall and will fit in our creche. They are hand-painted and of a polyresin material. They'll be stored in the liturgy closet in the church. We'll ask Billy Rerick if he'd be interested in painting/ repairing the statues from the old set. Maybe they could then be used in the new school.

  The Altar Society takes care of cleaning the Altar Server vestments. One of the larger cassocks (a size 20) has holes in it so the Altar Society will buy a new one. Janet Burns will bring one to Hurley's to match the right shade of red.

  The Altar Society will be having a bake sale along with the KC Ladies' Pie & Ice Cream Social on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 5 pm in the church basement. We'll also be selling our homemade donuts. Our raffle ticket drawings will take place then, also.

  The Altar Society had just mailed out on Sept. 14 to parishioners their annual letter along with the raffle tickets.

  The Altar Society is still in the process of updating their by-laws and setting up committees.

- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the Knights will be helping with the Special Olympics on Sept. 19. They are also starting the "Month of Money" raffle. However, there is question of whether a gaming license is needed when tickets are mailed out. They are checking on that. (Members at the Parish Council meeting said the Altar Society & Gala just obtain a "Local Raffle Permit.")

  The KC's are checking on the cost of a flag pole for the new school. They got one bid that seems quite high--$12,000. The Knights are helping fund seven seminarians this year.

- **Bridge Builders:** Marie Vetter reported Bridge Builders had not met yet this fall. The meeting has been rescheduled for Sept. 24. However, at their May meeting, the Bridge Builders decided not to have the "Tree of Lights" ceremony on Dec. 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) because of poor attendance. Instead, they are thinking of having it on Bridge Builder's Sunday. This will be on "Christ the King" Sunday (the Sunday before Advent) which will be Nov. 22 this year.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education:** Marie Vetter reported the opening Mass for Faith Formation will be on Wed., Sept. 23, at 6:30 pm. Following the Mass will be a meal in the church basement and then an open house. Parish Council members were asked to help with the meal & cleanup.
  Marie reported that all catechetical spots have been filled. There was a parents' meeting last week and about fifteen parents attended.
  Religious Ed classes start Sept. 30. There will be Adoration and Praise & Worship once a month.
  Mattia Braun has accepted the Youth Director position for this year. (She had spent a year as a NET minister.)

- **Finance Council:** Erin Perronteau reported the Finance Council will meet next week. The June Financials have been finished and we had a net income of $22,000 for the last fiscal year. We don't have a lot of debt—mainly paying for the church roof and the school bus.

- **Pastor's Report:**
  - Fr. Courtright reported there had been a meeting today with Diocesan Catholc School officials. Bishop Folda was here in Grand Forks last week and visited the school classes and also the construction site.
  - The "Ignite the Mission" Capital Campaign has so far raised $6.2 million for the new St. Carlo Acutis Middle School. $3 million of that is from St. Michael's parishioners.

V. Old & Current Business

- **Beautification Committee Update:** Fr. Courtright reported the committee was scheduled to meet Sept. 17 with Collin Granger and they should be seeing the proposed renditions then.
- **School Gala:** The committee had just met that evening and will now meet weekly. Gala ticket sales have been a little slow. Maybe there should be some Mass announcements. However, a lot of raffle tickets have been sold. The Gala is set for Friday, Oct. 23. That happens to be during Teachers' Convention and UND is playing hockey against the Minn. Gophers in Mpls. that night, also.
  The Parish Council was asked to donate a silent auction basket again this year. Janet Burns said she could put one together. Each council member was asked to donate $10.

VI. New Business:

There are several Bible studies going on this fall at St. Michael's.

VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer:

The next Parish Council meeting will be Tues., Oct. 20.
Fr. Courtright then led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen