

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

November 25, 2025

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

President Laurie Kraemer called the meeting to order. Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Laurie Kraemer, Craig Knutson, Janet Burns, Brent Lahr, Erin Perronseau, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Ken Vacek, Rhonda Varriano, Craig Pfau, Lori Swinney, Fr. Seth
- **Approval of Minutes:** Bent Lahr motioned to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Seconded by Lori Kraemer. Minutes approved.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Janet Burns reported that the Altar Society bought a new wreath for the choir loft as well as one for the front of the church and another to put above the elevator at the courtyard entrance. They bought five planters, too. Also, the Altar Society has been pricing a new Nativity set for the church. We'll advertise if parishioners want to help the Altar Society buy the statues. Thirty-five inches is the tallest we can go.
The Altar Society is still working on updating their by-laws. They have not been updated since April 1978. Msgr. Pilon will be having a meal celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination just one week before Brendon Schneibel's "First Mass" reception. The Altar Society will be putting on both receptions. We hope to keep the tables up in the Youth Center that entire week.
- **Knights of Columbus:** No report.
- **Bridge Builders:** Bridge Builders Sunday was held Sunday, Nov. 23. The "Tree of Lights" ceremony will be on Dec. 8.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** We still need a representative. However, we don't want to say "Board of Education" anymore. Rather, we will now say "Parish Education" because this also includes areas such as: Religious Education, Youth Group, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ("CGS"), OCIA, & Adult Education. Fr. Courtright said he would appoint Marie Vetter as the representative.
The **All Saints School Gala** held Oct. 24 was discussed. It was a success! About \$200,000 gross was taken in and the net was approximately \$152,000. The raffles did extremely well. People seemed to like having it at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. The rental cost is about the same as the Alerus. It holds a maximum of 550 people. Just under 400 people attended this year's Gala—about 80 less than the total number of tickets actually bought. The Ralph has already been reserved for next year: Oct. 23, 2026.
- **Finance Council:** Erin Perronseau reported the Finance Council had an on-line meeting earlier in the month. The cash flow is improving and we're getting caught up. However, we're about \$50,000 behind in donations. We might get some more during the Christmas season. Things are a little different now that our school is part of the All Saints Catholic Schools Network.

- **Pastor's Report:**

Fr. Courtright reported he had recently met with Kevin Lynch of Lynch Development Associates about the feasibility study for the building of St. Carlo Acutis Middle School. The study looks good.

V. Old & Current Business

- **Beautification Committee:** Fr. Courtright reported that a bid has been received from Brian Henning for \$500,000 to paint the interior of the church. However, we hope to get another bid after the first of the year. A council member asked who did the painting at St. Mary's Church? Their church looks very nice.
- **Parish Council By-Laws:** It is still a work in progress on updating the by-laws for the Parish Council. It was mentioned that some parishes have quarterly parish council meetings instead of monthly. Fr. Courtright said we should meet at least 8 times a year (even if the by-laws say a minimum of 6 meetings). Also, the by-laws say we should have "standing committees." We don't have them now. Maybe we should have them on an "as needed basis." We want to continue to look for volunteers for these committees. Should one of the two lay officers of the parish come to our meetings? We should hear from one of the three St. Michael's representatives on the Advisory Council to the All Saints Catholic Schools Network Board. Craig Knutson said he could perhaps talk to John Shaft who is currently one of the representatives. Maybe the representative could come to our meetings approximately three times a year **or** as needed **or** just submit a report.
- **Parish Council Email:** The parish has a *parish council email address* but people don't know about it. Maybe it should be put in the bulletin as well as listing the Parish Council members. Maybe we should have a "Parish Council Welcome" one weekend after the Masses in which parishioners can meet Parish Council members.

VI. New Business

- Our Liturgy & Music Director, Emily White, is leaving in early January to join a convent in North Carolina. We will start advertising for that position right after Thanksgiving.

VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer:

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

Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

The next Parish Council meeting will be in January.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen