

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

June 3, 2025

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

President Janet Burns called the meeting to order. Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- Janet Burns welcomed newly-elected council member Brent Lahr. Everyone introduced themselves. A guest at the meeting was seminarian Paul Zak. He'll be helping out here at St. Michael's for the months of June & July. He'll be ordained a deacon next year.
- **Roll Call:** Fr. Courtright, Fr. Seth, Janet Burns, Ken Vasek, Sean Valentine, Rhonda Varriano, Brent Lahr, Craig Knutson, Craig Pfau, Dean Kuhns, Lori Swinney, Erin Perronteau, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Laurie Kraemer
- **Approval of Minutes:** Ken Vasek motioned to approve the minutes from the May 20 meeting. Seconded by Sean Valentine. Motion passed.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Janet Burns reported on Fr. Tim Kraemer's reception coming up on Sunday, June 8. It will be held in the school gym following the 11 am Mass. Altar Society ladies will make on Friday morning the frog eye fruit salad and green bean dish for the reception meal. The Altar Society will also be helping with the Parish Picnic coming up on Wed., June 11, in Lincoln Park. Volunteers are asked to be there at 3 pm for the set-up. Parishioners whose last names start with A-H are asked to bring a dessert. Those with last names starting with K-Z are asked to bring a salad. The Altar Society won't meet again until Aug. or Sept. They will meet in the Pastoral Ctr. instead of the church basement.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the Knights are helping with the Parish Picnic, also. They will put on the Bingo at the picnic, too.
- **Bridge Builders:** Their next meeting will be Sept. 11.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:**
Dean Kuhns reported 37 students received First Communion/Confirmation on May 10. There will not be a diocesan catechist training workshop this fall as there was last year. For the upcoming school year, there will be two sections of 4th-grade—the first time in memory. The school still needs to hire a 2nd-grade teacher and also a part-time fine arts teacher. There might be an opportunity to share that part-time position with Holy Family. For Youth Ministry at St. Michael's, Lynnae Braun will continue in administration and Mollie Bye will be the instructor. The new middle school will be called St. Carlo Acutis. The 6th-grade classroom on the top floor of St. Michael's School is ready. The board of the All Saints Catholic School Network met May 15. Sara Dudley is the president. The Gala will be held Friday, Oct. 24, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. VISION Bank is the first sponsor.

- **Finance Council:** The roof on the church will be done this summer. The Diocese is paying 50% of the cost. The Prayer Garden next to the school will also be put in this summer. Billy Rerick is coming here next week to start painting the statues on the front altars.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - Fr. Courtright reported four of our school teachers are moving. The music teacher will be teaching next fall on the Air Base.
 - Fr. Courtright brought to the meeting a booklet of all the Eucharistic miracles that St. Carlo Acutis had put together online.
 - A statue of St. Carlo Acutis will be bought for the school.
 - The painting of the Stations of the Cross is all paid for. We should put up a plaque listing the donors.
 - The pictures of our new Pope, Pope Leo, have arrived at the diocesan office. We need to pick them up.
 - The traveling statue of our Lady of Fatima will be at St. Michael's on Oct. 9.
 - The Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) is looking to put together a panel of religious leaders to discuss how the different religious groups deal with these things.
 - Fr. Courtright asked Parish Council members if anyone has any ideas for fundraising for our different projects.

V. Old & Current Business

- We are waiting to finish the new church roof before going ahead with the beautification plans for the interior of the church.
- Railings will be put on the steps to the altar. Should they be made of wood or of brass?

VI. New Business

- **Parish Council Election:** Rhonda Varriano won re-election to the Parish Council. Brent Lahr was elected to the second open seat. He will take Sean Valentine's place.
- **Parish Council Officers:** The election of officers for the Parish Council was discussed. The President draws up the meeting agenda and leads the meeting. Laurie Kraemer had previously volunteered to be the new President, taking over from Janet Burns. Ken Vacek then nominated that Laurie be the new President. Seconded by Craig Pfau. The motion was unanimously passed. The Vice-President takes over when the President is absent. Also, the Vice-President takes care of getting people to run for Parish Council seats. Ken Vacek nominated Craig Knutson to be the new Vice-President. Seconded by Sean Valentine. The motion was unanimously passed.
- Janet Burns asked that a list of everyone's name & email address be sent to all Parish Council members.
- Janet Burns, Rhonda Varriano, and Dean Kuhns will meet on Aug. 19 to go over the Parish Council by-laws. Then the entire Parish Council will meet on Sept. 16 (unless something pressing comes up before then).
- Janet Burns thanked Sean Valentine for his expertise and contributions to the council over the past three years.

VII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer: The meeting then adjourned and Fr. Seth led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen