

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## January 25, 2022

### I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer:

Fr. Courtright called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Kevin Fruhwirth, Janet Burns, Tim Brooke, John Santangelo, Craig Pfau, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** Jennifer Modeen, Jeri Anderson, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Katie Graham, Lori Swinney, Tom Helbling
- **Approval of Minutes:** Janet Burns motioned to approve the Nov. 16 minutes. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Minutes approved.
- **Election of Officers:** Fr. Courtright read a letter he received from Jennifer Modeen that said she could no longer serve as an officer but asked if she should attend the remaining meetings of her term. Because a number of council members were absent, the council decided to wait until the February meeting to elect new officers.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** The Soup & Pie Supper is coming up on Saturday, Feb. 5. It will be served from 3 to 7 pm. Ladies have already made the doughnuts to be sold at the supper.
- **Men's Club:** The first Fish Fry will be on Friday, March 4. A planning meeting was held Jan. 24.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC's have been meeting. He said he's found it's important to *personally* invite prospective new members to join.
- **Bridge Builders:** No report.

### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** No report.
- **Finance Council:** Business manager Tom Helbling had earlier sent out to members the December 31 financial statement & report. Highlights included:
  - The Envelope & Plate Collection is up \$11,500 this Dec. over last Dec.
  - The Home & School Association continues to raise funds primarily geared towards a new walk-in freezer/cooler.
  - The Overall Income – Expense is up \$16,900 in the black compared to a year ago.
- **Pastor's Report:**

Fr. Courtright reported the "Loop Field Hearing System" people came to measure but he hasn't heard back from them yet.

### V. Old & Current Business:

- **Winter Gala:** It went well—some said it was the best gala we've ever had. Close to \$80,000 was taken in.
- **Christmas Eve Dinner:** It went well this year—held in partnership with Hope Church at the Grand Cities Mall. It was nice that the Mayor had OK'd free busing to the dinner.

- **Giving Hearts Day** is coming up on Feb. 10. Donors for the matching funds have been lined up.
- **Parish Re-Engagement:** Discussion continued on getting more people involved in the parish. We should probably do a “Time & Talent” survey or maybe set up a time when people could meet representatives of the different organizations. Fr. Courtright wants to have something this spring. It was mentioned that one strategy is to encourage groups of friends to come to things together. It was also mentioned that perhaps the Parish should update its website. Maybe for the long-term, the Parish should consider hiring a “Social Media Manager.”

## **VI. New Business:**

**Input for the Synod:** Fr. Courtright had some questions sent by the Diocese for each parish to answer. The purpose is to gain information in preparation for an upcoming World Synod. The answers/comments from the parishes will be sent back to the Bishop who will in turn send the information on.

### **1. Is the “Parish Mission” a combined effort of the priest and the parishioners?**

Our “Parish Mission” statement was read aloud at the meeting. Council members said the answer was “yes.” For example, we have an active board, lots of volunteers, and lay catechists.

### **2. Who is missing in the Parish? Who is left out? What will fix it?**

Council members discussed this. Missing included: younger families, young adults, those who don’t want to come. Some people just don’t see the benefit of coming to church.

### **3. What particular issues in the Church do we need to pay attention to?**

#### **What particular issues in the “culture” do we need to pay attention to?**

Council members discussed these questions. It was commented that many people don’t see the need to come to church. Fewer people are getting married in the church.

The “family” needs to be strengthened in the culture. We need to realize the importance of “human dignity.” Nowadays we “use” people and “love” material things instead of the other way round.

### **4. How do we foster a more consultative approach in the Parish Council? Are we getting the opinions of everyone? Are we fulfilling the needs with the different groups?**

Council members then discussed and commented on these questions.

## **VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

There being no further business, Fr. Courtright closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tues., Feb. 15, at 7 pm in the Pastoral Center.

Fr. Courtright asked Tim Brooke to lead the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen