

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

November 16, 2021

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer:

Fr. Courtright said the opening prayer and welcomed everyone.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Kevin Fruhwirth, Janet Burns, John Santangelo, Craig Pfau, Katie Graham, Lori Swinney, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Jennifer Modeen, Jeri Anderson, Tim Brooke, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Tom Helbling
- **Approval of Minutes:** Kevin Fruhwirth motioned to approve the Oct. 19 minutes. Seconded by Craig Pfau. Minutes approved.
- **Election of Officers:** Since so many members were absent, the election of officers will be taken up at the next meeting. Jennifer Modeen & Kevin Fruhwirth's terms will be up in June. Jeri Anderson's term is up in June 2023. Of the three new members—Janet Burns, John Santangelo, & Tim Brooke—we still weren't sure which two had the three-year terms as opposed to the two-year term. However, Janet & John who were present at the meeting said they would both serve three years. Therefore, Tim Brooke will have the two-year term.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** A general church cleaning was scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 20, at 9 am.
- **Men's Club:** No report.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported seven new members from last month's membership drive—although they are actually transfers from other councils. There will be a 4th Degree KC meeting on Nov. 23. The 3rd Degree Knights will have their meeting on the 2nd Tues. of Dec.—Dec. 9. The drive for donations for a new ultrasound machine for the Women's Pregnancy Center is doing well and should make the goal of \$13,000. The National Knights of Columbus will then match it to make a total of \$26,000. The KC's might put on a Bingo in Feb.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported the Bridge Builders do not have a President yet but will be meeting on Dec. 2. The "Tree of Lights" Ceremony will take place Wed., Dec. 8, after 8:45 am Mass.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Katie Graham talked about the upcoming Winter Gala. The school doesn't want to do anything "Giving Hearts"-related until after the Gala. She also mentioned that the school has Covid policies in place.
- **Finance Council:** Tom Helbling had earlier sent out the October Financial Statement to members. Highlights included:
 - a) Church Income:
 - Adult Envelopes: down a little over \$20K from last year, but the plate is up over \$2.5K
 - Unlike last year, we have funds starting to come in for the Gala during Oct. as well as the Giving Hearts Day Donor Match.
 - Overall, the Church Total Income is down over \$24K compared to last year.

- b) Faith Formation/Religious Education Income:
 - Overall income is down a little over \$2.3K versus last year largely due to the \$2.5K donation last year received for the High School Fundraising Income.
- c) School Income: up about \$2.8K from last year
- d) Building Fund/Capital Campaign Income:
 - Income total is \$2.7K This is expected as we will soon wrap up the Capital Campaign donations.
 - We will continue to receive donations from time to time for the Windows/Sanctuary Restoration.
- e) Church expenses: down about \$11.8K compared to last year
- f) Faith Formation/RE Expenses: down a little over \$4.6K versus last year
- g) School Expenses: Mostly comparable to last year. However, overall school expenses are down \$25.7K. This is primarily due to GF Public Schools paying the Elementary Paraprofessionals, having one less teacher, grant expenses, and less food cost.
- h) Overall **Income – Expense for October**: \$2.3K in the black which is \$11.8K better than last year.

Pastor's Report:

- Fr. Courtright commented on the Rosary Rally held in the Town Square on Sat., Oct. 16. He hopes it will be held next year with even greater participation.
 - Fr. Courtright also mentioned that one needs to be a member of the parish and knowledgeable when doing anything with the sound system—for example, at a funeral or wedding.
 - Our new liturgist, Emily White, was starting that week.
 - Fr. Courtright brought up the proposed Loop Field Hearing System. Money has been set aside for it, but we're waiting for new carpet to be put in. He asked why do we have to wait for new carpet? Couldn't the system be put in without it? He'd like to get it done now.

V. Old & New Business:

Christmas Eve Dinner: Because of difficulties in leadership to take it over, the Christmas Eve Dinner won't be held at St. Michael's this year. It'll probably be taken over by Hope Evangelical Church in the Grand Cities Mall. Fr. Courtright was meeting the next day with Hope's Pastor Patrick. It'll be advertised that St. Michael's is *partnering* with Hope. Because of Hope's church services, the dinner might be served earlier—maybe starting at 11:30 am.

Winter Gala: Janet Burns reported the Gala Dinner tickets sales were going fine, but maybe not quite as well as the previous Gala. They've gotten a lot of silent auction items & gift certificates. However, there won't be a lot of "big" items to auction at this year's event. They have some good volunteers helping. The Gala Committee was meeting again the next day and again the following week.

Parish Re-Engagement: Fr. Courtright says St. Michael's is the "Flagship Parish" of the Diocese. However, an effect of Covid is that a lot of parishioners have not yet come back. How do we deal with this? One suggestion might be to have a competition among the parishes—maybe a "Progressive Potluck" or an "Attendance Competition." We need to have something to welcome people back. We'll bring this up again at the next council meeting.

Fr. Courtright had brought to the council meeting the results of the parish survey that he had gotten from Sara Dudley. We still need to go through & discuss them. A council member who's a greeter said it's welcoming to remember people's names. A suggestion was made that maybe the greeters have name tags. Another said personal touches are nice. Maybe wedding anniversaries (or even birthdays) could be acknowledged. Fr. Courtright said it would be really nice if St. Michael's could eventually have a gathering area.

VI. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Members decided not to have a Dec. meeting. The third Tuesday in Jan. (Jan. 18) was not good for Fr. Courtright so the council decided to meet on the last Tues. in Jan. (Jan. 25) at 7 pm. The meeting then adjourned & Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen