

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## October 19, 2021

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

Fr. Courtright said the opening prayer and Jennifer Modeen called the meeting to order.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Welcome:** Jennifer Modeen welcomed everyone.
- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Jennifer Modeen, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jeri Anderson, Janet Burns, Tim Brooke, John Santangelo, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Craig Pfau, Lori Swinney, Jennifer Loraas, Tom Helbling, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** None
- **Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves. Jennifer Loraas introduced Katie Graham as her replacement for the Board of Education representative. The newly-elected council members are Janet Burns, John Santangelo, and Tim Brooke. Tim Brooke also heads the Parish Youth Group. Two of the three newly-elected members will have three-year terms—expiring in June 2024. The other new member is filling the remainder of a two-year term—expiring June 2023. We're not sure who has the two-year term.
- **Approval of Minutes:** The last Parish Council meeting with minutes was held back in April. Lori Swinney motioned to approve the April minutes. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Motion carried.
- **Election of Officers:** Jennifer Modeen ran the meeting since she was the vice-president from last spring and the previous president's term had ended. It was decided that new officers would be elected at the November meeting.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported the Altar Society met in Sept. to discuss the upcoming Chili Supper & Raffle which was held Sat., Oct. 16. There was a poor turnout for the supper: about 115 meals were served along with 53 take-outs. However, the raffle did all right. There were a lot of baked goods and homemade doughnuts left over. Some of these were sold the next morning after Sunday Mass. There has been a good response in donations for the fund to buy new rectory furnishings.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported the Men's Club met in June to prepare for the Parish Picnic. They are now meeting on a monthly basis. They had wanted to do two breakfasts this year, but they have had to postpone or scale down on these because of a shortage of workers. The "Month of Money" raffle tickets are all sold. This brings in about \$4500 for the Men's Club. They are planning for two Fish Fries during Lent but will need to look for workers from the parish.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the Knights of Columbus participated in the Potato Bowl Parade on Sept. 18. Last Sat.—Oct. 16—the Rosary Rally was held downtown in the Town Square with about 60 people in attendance. The KC's had a membership drive on Sun., Oct. 17, getting about 7 potential new members.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported they haven't had a meeting yet because there was not a quorum. The next meeting will be held Dec. 2. The Bridge Builders president has moved away so new officers are needed. The Bridge Builders will not be putting on a breakfast this year. The new playground will be named "Bridge Builders Park" because they were the largest donor. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Dec. 8 after 8:45 am Mass.

#### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** As of Sept. 7, the enrollment (preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) at the school is 188 students. This is up 15 from last year. Also, this year there are 9 new personnel members at the school. Masks are encouraged for the students, but not required. The employees, however, must wear masks. Daily “Rapid Covid Testing” is available.  
The new windows are in at the school. They were paid for with a \$100,000 grant from the Engelstad Foundation and an estate donation. Council members commented that the windows look really nice. The new playground is also in at the school. Money was raised from a “Swing-a-thon” and the Bridge Builders gave \$42,000. Mentioned was that it is “age-appropriate” for preschoolers. Tim Brooke was asked how many are in the Youth Group (grades 9-12). He answered that 18 to 22 students have been showing up.
- **Finance Council:** The Sept. Financial Statement had earlier been sent out to Parish Council members. Business Manager Tom Helbling reported the Finance Council had met earlier that day. Income from Sunday envelopes is about the same as last year. The number of people giving online is increasing.  
Our total income for Sept. (\$258,000) is always high because of the tuition payments made in Sept. Expenses are about the same as last year.  
The Income – Expense figure for Sept. is \$61,603—in the black.
- **Pastor’s Report**
  - Fr. Courtright asked about the annual **Christmas Eve Dinner** which has traditionally been held at St. Michael’s. (Last year, because of Covid, it was just take-out only from the Northlands Mission.) It’s been held for well over 40 years. Judy Jahnke, who had been co-chair for several years, reported on what the dinner normally entails. John Santangelo commented that in past years, he & Vern Langowski had spent a lot of time cleaning up after the dinner. In recent years, we’ve had trouble in getting leadership to chair the event. A couple of council members suggested that maybe it’s time to let Hope Church take it over.
  - Fr. Courtright reported that St. Michael’s Parish & School will participate for the first time in **“Giving Hearts Day”** in Feb. Whatever money is raised will be doubled.
  - The **Annual Sunday Offertory Commitment** is coming up. Fr. Courtright asked what he needed to know about it since he’s new to our parish.
  - Plans for the **Winter Gala** are coming along. Janet Burns, who’s on the Gala Committee along with Andy Schneider & others, spoke about it. Although they have some good volunteers, more are needed to pull it off. (Jesse Zyskowski & Jenny Duffy aren’t chairing it this year.) The Gala will be held on Friday, Dec. 3 at the Alerus Ctr. Tickets for the dinner will be \$40. There will also be a raffle. There will not be a dance & not as many decorations. They have a lot of good ideas for the Gala. They hope to have a better sound system this year than last.

#### V. Old & Current Business:

- **Parish Re-Engagement:** There was a parish survey done last spring and meetings held about Parish Re-Engagement. Council members said it was important to follow up on this. Sara Dudley had been the coordinator. Maybe she should be invited to a council meeting to talk about the goals that were pulled out from it.  
A council member asked if the Parish should have another Time & Talent Survey. It was mentioned that if we did, it’s important to follow up on any responses.

## **VI. New Business:**

- The Parish has hired a new Liturgy & Music Coordinator. Her name is Emily White. She has previously worked at the Newman Ctr.  
Some council members brought up that we need to have more lively music at Mass. We'll put this on the agenda for next month.

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

- There being no further business, Jennifer Modeen adjourned the meeting.  
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7 pm.  
Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen