

**St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 8, 2008**

**Members Present:** Fr. Keyes, Fr. John Delaney, Bill Callahan, Diane Demoulas. Honey DiNuccio, Bill Dolan, Susan Haltmaier, Kathleen Gorman, Mary Sue Howlett, Mary Alice Rock, Bob Scanlon, Maryann Marinelli  
**Excused:** Joan Thompson, Jim Wefers, Fr. Jerry Hogan, Jack McManus, Sue Rogge, Sue Reidy  
**Absent:** Joe Smith

Guest: Kim Silk, Youth Ministry Leader

Opening Prayer: Mary Alice Rock

Minutes from the December 4, 2007 meeting were approved and accepted as written.

**Youth Ministry Update:** Kim Silk reported that there has been a marked increase in children attending activities since the Parish Picnic. The 'Haunted Convent' was a huge success. Fifty Middle School and High School students worked together on this event. Admission was \$2; the total of \$450 was donated to Cor Unum. The group has participated in the Mass of Dedication, the Giving Tree coordinated by the Youth Ministry Office, and Christmas Caroling at five elderly housing complexes. Up to 20 students volunteer at Cor Unum twice/ month. Plans are being made for a trip to Danvers for a Laser Tag event on January 21.

**Saint Michael Parish Christmas Celebration:** Mary Alice Rock reported that 10,000 people attended the Christmas Masses. The Mass at the NAHS field house on Christmas eve was held at 3:30pm with 2000 in attendance. There was a much smaller crowd than usual at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at the church. It seems like the trend is changing whereby people prefer to go to an earlier Mass on Christmas Eve. The new schedule worked well.

**Archdiocese Update:** Fr. John Delaney reported that there were 60 more parishioners who made donations to the Catholic Appeal this year, a total of 495 donors. The goal was \$130,000; Total donated from St. Michael Parish was \$71,000. There were no large single donations (as in the past). For next year, there is a proposal by the Archdiocese to reach a goal of 10% of the Parish offertory. Details are pending.

The Bicentennial Celebration will be held at St. Michael Parish on September 7, 2008 with the noon Mass celebrated by the Bishop. Eleven parishes from our vicariate will be invited to this celebration. The church picnic will be held after the Mass, similar to last year's format, on the Parish grounds.

In response to a request for Cardinal Sean to visit St. Michaels, the Cardinal will celebrate the 4pm Mass here on Saturday, February 2. He will be present for some of the Mardi Gras celebration, and able to greet parishioners.

**Increasing Parish Participation:** Fr. John and Fr. Keyes discussed their concern about the lack of consistent attendance at Mass, and the future of the Catholic Church. Discussion followed about why some parishioners participate in sacraments and CRE but do not attend weekly Mass, fully engaging in the Church. More discussion will follow at future meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Gorman

**Next meeting, Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7:00pm.**