**St. Catharine of Siena Parish Council has a Vacancy!**

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What is a Parish Council?

Historically speaking, all Church activities, ministries, and decision-making were handled by members of the clergy. In the 1960’s, Vatican II changed a lot of that thinking by providing guidelines for the involvement, participation and leadership roles of clergy and lay people, fulfilling their Baptismal roles as people of God.

In current times, with fewer and fewer priests available to manage all the needs of any parish, lay people have taken on a critical responsibility to ensure the future of the Catholic Church. We, at St. Catharine’s, have created a panel of parishioners to support the Monsignor by functioning in ways which will support the areas of strength and seek to effect change in areas of weakness within our parish.

Our overall objectives include, but are not limited to:

* Making sure that none of the seven essential elements of parish life is overlooked.
* Maintaining an awareness that the Parish Mission is carried out through the efforts of parish ministries.
* Seeking opportunities to unify the parish.
* Avoiding waste and duplication by modeling positive, effective stewardship.
* Supporting parish ministries to ensure their success.
* Facilitating worthwhile projects which may result in long-term positive results for the parish and/or community.
* Prioritizing what needs to be accomplished for the parish in the forthcoming three to five years and beyond.
* Finally, and most importantly: Involving the entire parish on a regular basis in the continuing search for a more effective response to God’s will.

A successful Parish Council is made up of people with a variety of viewpoints, yet together work toward the common goal of making sure our parish has a strong foundation grounded in the mission of Christ. The Parish Council supports the Pastor in his efforts to protect and preserve the sanctity of our Parish and the Catholic Church, especially amidst rapid rates of change in a volatile world.

* **The application deadline to apply or nominate someone is Saturday April 30, 2016.**
* **Selected candidates are asked to commit to a 3 year term beginning in July 2016.**
* **Additional details along with an opportunity to attend an informational session will be provide to all nominations and applicants.**