

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 28, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

Present (*In person*): Fr. E. Vargas, Fr. A. Komalachan, B. Choquette (Chair), M. Tapuska (Secretary), A. Bitter, G. Brand, S. Gaeta, L. Iovinelli, T. Klassen, N. McIntosh, T. Novecosky, K. Renger, P. Tan, P. Van de Mosselaer
(*By Zoom*): B. Popp

Guest: M. McGee, Chairman of SMCC Finance Council

Absent: A. Valdez

AGENDA

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Introduction of our new Assistant Pastor**

Fr. Ajeesh Komalachan was welcomed by Fr. Edmund and members of PC. Fr. Ajeesh is from the Syro-Malankaran Catholic Community (Eastern rite). He is currently awaiting permission from Rome to celebrate Mass in the Western (Latin) Rite.

- 3. Items Scheduled to Revisit**

- a) Kids Kingdom Update (Applications)**

The position “Children’s Liturgy Coordinator” for SMCC is posted on the website (via link in the bulletin) and on the Diocesan website.

The Diocese is considering a catechetical direction whereby there would be longer sessions of catechesis for attendees. For example, the program “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” emulates the experience of the Mass, teaching reverence and respect. In addition, the new approach would be family-oriented to give parents an active role.

Discussion followed about what kind of liturgy should be offered at St. Michael’s – the more traditional Sunday school liturgy during Mass or a longer session, perhaps after the 9:00 am Mass, that could last an hour. For the time being, and when the Children’s Liturgy Coordinator is hired, the children’s liturgy will be held during Mass.

- b) Chapel Renovations**

A walk through will take place tomorrow. The chapel has been cleaned post-construction. The kneeling stand, the marble top for the pedestal for the statue of the

Virgin Mary and a few other externals have yet to arrive. The Stations of the Cross will be installed. A permit is not needed for the chapel to be reoccupied.

c) Coffee following 11:00 am Mass

The former coordinator (pre-Covid) of the 11:00 am coffee team has indicated that the team is being set up again.

A PC member was approached by a parishioner to inform PC that there is a dedicated group of 5 volunteers who have already been preparing coffee after the 11:00 am Mass.

The parishioner will be contacted so that an introduction to the coordinator of the pre-Covid team is made. It was noted that volunteers must be screened through the Volunteer Coordinator.

The practice of locking the gate and turning off the lights after the 11:00 Mass will be discontinued to accommodate those who stay longer for coffee.

Action: The parishioner will be contacted to ensure that an introduction to the coordinator of the 11:00 am coffee team is made.

Action: The Volunteer Coordinator will be asked to initiate the process of screening and necessary paperwork completion for all 11:00 am coffee volunteers.

d) Art Walk Success

The Art Walk was a success but could have been more so if there was more advertising prior to the event. It was requested that there be experienced handlers next year as one of the walls was damaged.

e) Memorial Mass

It was agreed by PC that we should have a Memorial Mass for parishioners who passed away during Covid. More details to follow.

f) Introduction of Parish Staff – Open to ideas regarding the How!

It will be confirmed if the office staff want a formal introduction. It is not common practice to have a formal introduction of parish staff. It was decided at last PC meeting that there not be a formal introduction at this time. (See February 28, 2023 minutes, New Item h))

NEW ITEMS

a) **Blessing of the Chapel**

The blessing will take place at 1:30 pm on April 16 (Divine Mercy Sunday). The blessing can be done without the bishop. It was noted that the Chapel does not need to be re-consecrated as that was done when the building was opened.

b) **Divine Mercy Sunday Liturgy (time)**

The liturgy will take place from 2:00 – 3:00 pm (right after the blessing noted in the preceding paragraph.)

c) **Reception following Divine Mercy Liturgy (hosted by PC)**

The reception is scheduled immediately after the Divine Mercy Liturgy, from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. The PC members who are coordinating the reception have asked a parishioner who is familiar with the kitchen to assist with the reception. PC members will assist before, during and after the liturgy.

d) **Triduum Liturgies Environment**

This is largely organized, but volunteers are still required, as follows:
Thursday, April 6 at 1:00 pm
Saturday, April 8 at 9:00 am.

e) **More publicity for Church Celebrations or Events (e.g., Lenten Retreat/Inspiration Band Passion Concert/Catholic Teachers attending Friday Masses)**

Certain events have not been well attended. Some events have been held on short notice. More pre-planning is necessary. Discussion followed as to best ways to advertise, such Flocknote, emails, a Communications Coordinator or announcements before or after Masses. A suggestion was made that a committee of PC volunteers be formed to decide on advertising and on guidelines for announcements at Masses.

Action: An “advertising/announcements” committee of three PC members will be formed.

f) **Morning Coffee after Mass on Thursdays**

A PC member has been approached by a parishioner asking if morning coffee on Thursdays can be offered; this is a good way to build community. There is enough money in the budget for this.

Moved that coffee on Thursday mornings be offered. **The motion was approved.**

Action: The parishioner who formerly organized Friday morning coffee will be asked if she would organize a coffee event on Thursday mornings, after the 9:00 am Mass.

g) **Stipend for Speakers**

It was confirmed that a stipend is given to anyone who is under contract at SMCC, such as speakers or retreat presenters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

a) **Liturgical Ministers Lenten Retreat (March 31, 2023) Registration through the office**

The retreat will be held in the Gathering Area at 7:00 pm, after Stations of the Cross. Please register at the office.

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Holy Thursday – April 6th at 7:00 pm

Good Friday – April 7th at 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm

Easter Vigil – April 8th at 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday – April 9th at 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a) **Evening Masses at 7:00 pm**

A request was made that evening Masses for extraordinary occasions (e.g., Ash Wednesday or St. Michael's feast day) be held at 7:00 pm instead of at 6:00 pm. This will accommodate people who work during the day. There was agreement for this request.

b) **Celebration for Fr. Edmund's Anniversary of Ordination**

April 28 at 7:00 pm.

c) **Planning Session**

A meeting of PC is needed this spring to plan events that are anticipated from September 2023 to June 2024. The date for the meeting will be announced.

CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT at 8:20 pm