

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**

Present (*In person*): Fr. Vargas, Fr. Chukwurah, M. Nasse (Chair) M. Tapuska (Secretary), G. Brand, D. Helton, T. Klassen, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council), N. McIntosh, K. Renger, P. Tan, P. Van de Mosselaer
Absent: A. Bitter, L. Iovinelli, A. Valdez

Opening Prayer (Call to Holiness)

Call to Order and Welcome

We acknowledge that Treaty 7 territory, on which we meet today, is the ancestral land of the Indigenous peoples and is common home to everyone in virtue of God, our Creator's gracious gift.

Items from October meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2024, meeting of PC

Moved that the minutes from the October 29, 2024, meeting of PC be approved. **Seconded.** The motion was approved.

2. Offertory Baskets Update

There is a plan at each Mass for distribution of baskets. The less attended Masses are more difficult to manage. There are concerns with collection at the 11:00 am Mass as there are less volunteers. However, more volunteers are being recruited thanks to our Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteer sign up for Christmas Masses will be done through Sign-Up Genius.

3. Financial Update

The 2025 budget was submitted to the Diocese and was approved as submitted. The Diocese had given guidelines to aim for a break-even scenario. For budget purposes, and to be very prudent, the Finance Council assumed 2025 receipts to remain flat, which translates to a modest \$28k loss but compares favorably to a forecast loss for 2024 of \$98k.

As discussed previously, revenues need to increase to return our profitability to historical levels, but there are sufficient cash balances on hand to meet our Central Loan Fund and TIA obligations, provided that we have neither a modest decrease in revenues and/or increase in expenses, in which case we may need to seek relief from payments to the Diocese. In 2024, expenses were very high, but many were 1-time expenses, as such in 2025, expenses for property maintenance are forecast to decrease by \$74k. The bottom line is that provided we only incur a modest loss as forecast we will be OK, but we are still off pre-Covid numbers.

4. Parish Renewal Team Update

As mentioned in the update for last month, survey results have been released to the parishes. Our team is currently working through 5 individual reports that were released with the results. We have finished our review of two of the reports and will begin the third at our meeting this week. The purpose of the review is to determine which insights and highlights from the reports will be shared with the parish. We are following the suggested timeline released by the Diocese.

In addition, the Diocesan Advent Renewal Mission begins December 3 and runs until December 5. Each evening will feature one speaker (see below) who will present via Zoom and parishioners are invited to gather in the Sanctuary to watch the presentation. After each presentation there will be a time for small group discussion, followed by an opportunity to socialize and enjoy refreshments. Our team is grateful for the help of the Women's and Men's ministries who will provide cookies and host the socials on December 3rd and 4th, respectively. The Parish Renewal Team will host the final evening, after Exposition and Benediction.

- **Tue, Dec 3: Brett Powell** (Archdiocese of Vancouver) - *Form Missionary Disciples in Christ*
- **Wed, Dec 4: Bishop Scott McCaig** (Military Ordinariate of Canada) - *Be a Church of Encounter and Witness*
- **Thu, Dec 5: Mary Rose Bacani Valenti** (Salt + Light TV) - *Strengthen Family Life*

5. Adoration Ministry Update - Notes and Presentation-P. Van de Mosselaer

I now have a group of 10 people who have signed up to form a Eucharistic Adoration Ministry in our parish - they have now waited a couple months to get this ministry going and I am hoping we can do that very soon or they will have lost interest.

****From that I would like to set up a meeting with them, Fr. Edmund and Fr. Kelvin asap to flesh out what this ministry will look like and how they can help our parish become more active participants in Eucharistic Adoration.*

The "33 Days to Eucharistic Glory" book and video proposal that was set out last meeting is underway. From 2 private donations we purchased and received 500 copies of the book from Dynamic Catholic. Just over \$6. was paid for each book, which included the shipping costs.

Now comes the decision for how to go forward.

1st question: When and how do we disseminate the books and are we charging \$5 for them (as was suggested last meeting) or are they free?

- If charging then these monies would be \$2500 to the parish - those who donated do not wish any monies refunded.

-I was thinking that this could be a way to activate the Eucharistic Adoration Ministry - and have them involved in the distribution at Masses on a chosen weekend and perhaps sold in the gift shop as well

-A parishioner and I are happy to help get this all set up.

PC recommendation to charge \$5 per book, or by donation with a suggested minimum of \$5 per book.

2nd question: *When do we start the video series of Fr. Jonathan Meyers?*

- in January? Possibly 3rd weekend? (There are 33 videos in the series, each is 4-5 minutes in length).

PC recommendation that the tentative start date is the third weekend of January. Videos will be shown each weekend with some exceptions (e.g., Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday), finishing with consecration of SMCC, sometime in the fall.

3rd question: *How to message/market all of this to the parish?*

-Ambo announcements i.e. testimonials, explanation of Consecration of the Parish to the Eucharist; -priests.

-bulletin.

-PP

-anything printed?

Fr. Vargas asked that the Eucharistic Adoration Ministry discuss and make recommendations to PC.

Action Item: The Eucharistic Adoration Ministry will return with recommendations.

4th question: *When to start this messaging?*

- prior to the distribution of the books - before Christmas with the start of the new liturgical year? Which is also a Jubilee Year with "The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is "May hope fill our days". It's intended to be a year of hope for a world affected by war, COVID-19, and the climate crisis." Where can we find hope more than in the Eucharist??"

- or beginning January?

Recommendation to begin in January as there is already a lot happening in December.

6. High School and Young Adult Programs Update

Fr. Troy, the new Chaplain of the Francis Xavier Chaplaincy ("FXC") was contacted to discuss a Young Adults Ministry at SMCC. The FXC is aimed at college and university students. Fr. Troy is willing to try to bring the FXC to SMCC, but as this would be a first, there is no clear line of action on how this could be done. In other cases, the chaplaincy has emerged organically;

however, Fr. Troy is willing to put a note out to other members. There is optimism that we will have a youth ministry at SMCC.

Discussion followed and suggestions were made as to how to create circumstances conducive to the formation and gathering of a youth/young adult ministry at SMCC, including provision of a welcoming environment, encouraging high school students to volunteer with parents in appropriate ministries, such as the Hospitality Ministry and live streaming the Life Teen Mass (Sunday 5 pm).

It was noted that at SMCC we already have a welcoming environment including a first-rate sound system, air conditioning and low rental rates.

7. Fundraising Updates

The Fund Forward (protein-products) fundraiser is in its third week and is going slowly, with approximately \$7000 in sales to date. 20% of sales will be given to SMCC. The slow uptake is likely because it is a parish-wide fundraiser and there has been no solicitation by word-of-mouth as might be the case if it was a ministry-specific fundraiser. Members of PC are encouraged to solicit friends and others through word-of-mouth.

The following from L. Iovinelli was shared:

*I would also like to share news of an event that you may be interested in attending to begin the Advent season. The Advent and Christmas High School Choral Festival, celebrating the Calgary Catholic School District high school choral students, is scheduled to take place on **Monday December 2, 2024. Doors open at 6:30pm and the concert starts at 7:00pm at St. Michael's Catholic Community.***

“Hear the Angels Sing” will highlight sacred music from the Advent season featuring high school choirs from All Saints, Bishop Carroll, Bishop O’Byrne, Father Lacombe, Notre Dame, Our Lady of the Rockies and St. Mary’s High Schools.

What better way to welcome the Advent season than to hear the angels sing?

8. Shalom Lenten Retreat - Notes and Presentation – P. Tan

The preliminary proposal for the Lenten Retreat is as follows:

*With Fr. Roy Varghese (Shalom media ministry -Jesus heals)
March 25-27.*

*Weekend Holy mass celebrations: (concelebrating with parish priest on all weekend masses.)
March 22-5pm; March 23- 9am, 11am, 5pm. Officially invite the parishioners to the Lenten retreat.*

Lenten Retreat Program schedule:

Tuesday-Wednesday March 25- 26: 7pm- 9pm: Holy mass, spiritual enrichment Lenten talk and Eucharistic adoration.

Followed by reception -with light refreshments Tuesday and Wednesday?

Thursday – March 27: 7pm: Holy mass accompanied with a more comprehensive homily, culminating in Eucharistic Adoration and healing service with laying of hands.

There will not be any reception on this evening due to the healing service.

The Shalom ministry added: We are grateful for your collaboration in bringing this sacred event to life and are eager to witness the spiritual renewal it promises for all the parishioners.

Fr. Vargas would like to seek the approval of the Diocese before a Lenten retreat is finalized since individual parish Advent missions have been discouraged on account of the Diocesan Advent Renewal Mission.

Action Item: Fr. Vargas will correspond with the Diocesan Chancellor requesting approval to host the Shalom Lenten retreat at SMCC.

New Items

1. Invitation from Christmas Hamper Committee

Members of PC are invited to be present for Hamper Day; not to volunteer, but to meet the volunteers.

2. Protocol for Agenda Items

Please send agenda items to the Chair when the request for items is made. Any item that is received after the agenda has been set for a meeting will be put over to the following meeting of PC.

3. Resignation of PC Member

B. Popp has resigned.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Next Meeting – January 28, 2025