

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2025 @ 7:00 PM**

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

Absent: G. Brand, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council), A. Valdez

Opening Prayer -

Call to Order and Welcome

Items from January meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2025, meeting of PC

Moved that the minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting of PC be approved. **Seconded. The motion was approved.**

2. Deferral of Financial update to next PPC meeting

3. Shalom Lenten Retreat update

Preparations are well underway. The advertising banner is in the Narthex and advertising postcards have been distributed, with more to be distributed closer to the date of the retreat. Requests for social media coverage have been made. Information regarding the retreat has been sent to Lia O’Hara, Communications Coordinator at the Diocese, who will advertise the retreat prominently to the Diocese.

Most of the volunteers are in place. More hospitality ministers and “catchers” are required for the Healing Mass on Thursday evening. As this event is hosted by PC, members are encouraged to attend and volunteer as needed. Donations of baked goods are welcome.

Action Item: A sign-up list of vacant volunteer roles for members of PC will be available next meeting.

4. Parish Renewal Team update

Copies of the recently completed “Parish Renewal Team Update and Key Survey Highlights & Insights” booklet were handed out to PC members. The booklets will be introduced and distributed to parishioners after Masses on March 1&2.

PC members were informed of the upcoming Parish Renewal Planning Session on Saturday, March 29. More details will be provided by e-mail.

5. Eucharistic Adoration Ministry Update

- a. Book sales for the 33-week SMCC Consecration to the Eucharist are going well. An additional 250 books were ordered as the first order of books sold out. So far, about 80 books have been sold at an average of \$7/book. Any unsold books will be available for purchase through the Gift Shop. Feedback received for the book and pre-Mass videos has been positive.

It was noted that this program aligns very well with the vision and mission statement of SMCC.

- b. Starting on Friday, April 25, weekly adoration with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place immediately after Holy Hour and Benediction, from 10:30 am to 8:00 pm. The Monstrance will be transferred from St. Mary's Chapel to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel after Benediction. During Lent the Eucharistic Adoration Ministry team will be present for adoration on Fridays until 6:00 pm.

Fr. Vargas noted that education and guidelines need to be provided to ensure that people are exclusively focused on the presence of the Lord, and not on other distractions during adoration.

New Items

1. Collection Baskets

It was suggested that a collection basket be carried to the altar at the same time as the gifts during the Offertory Procession. Fr. Vargas agreed; it is very symbolic to have a collection basket included in the procession.

Action Item: This suggestion will be put forward to the Hospitality Team Leaders for implementation.

2. High Tables in the Narthex

There are now high tables in the Narthex, without chairs. This change is intentional and made to promote mingling during coffee times after Mass. Suggestions were made as to how to further promote conversation and mingling, including a different color coffee cup for visitors and newcomers, and ice-breaker questions left on the tables.

3. Parish Picnic

A few parishioners have asked why there have been no parish picnics. An organizer will be required for a picnic. This can be looked at as part the Parish Renewal Plan.

4. Mass for Altar Servers & Pizza Social

This event was held on Friday, February 21 and was very well attended.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Next Meeting – March 18, 2025