

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 18, 2025 @ 7:00 PM**

Present: Fr. Vargas, Fr. Chukwurah, M. Nasse (Chair) M. Tapuska (Secretary), A. Bitter, G. Brand, L. Iovinelli, N. McIntosh, K. Renger, P. Tan

Absent: D. Helton, T. Klassen, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council), A. Valdez, P. Van de Mosselaer

Guest: B. D’Souza (Altar Server Ministry)

Opening Prayer

Call to Order and Welcome

Items from February meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2025, meeting of PC

Moved that the minutes of the February 25, 2025, meeting of PC be approved. **Seconded.**
Approved as tabled, with minor edits as discussed at the meeting.

2. Deferral of Financial update to next PPC meeting

3. Shalom Lenten Retreat update

All the volunteers for the retreat, especially K. Renger, were thanked. In turn, P. and T. Tan were thanked for their efforts in bringing the retreat to SMCC. It was noted that there has been wonderful cooperation from all ministry leaders and that all necessary volunteers are in place. The status of screening paperwork for the volunteers will be checked.

Fr. Palatty arrives on Friday, March 21, and he may attend Mass and Stations of the Cross at 6 pm. He will deliver the homily at all weekend Masses and will announce the retreat.

PC members were asked to bring cookies or loaves for the receptions to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday after Mass and retreat talks.

Fr. Vargas raised a concern that collections for Shalom Media should not be taken during the evening Masses as it is a deviation from Diocesan policies that collections are only taken at Sunday Masses. After discussion it was agreed that collection baskets will be made available at the end of the evening Masses, and at the registration table. All monies collected will be donated to Shalom Media.

Advertising the retreat on Shine FM under Community Announcements will be explored.

4. Parish Renewal Team update

Bishop McGrattan was impressed with the approach to presenting the survey results in the “Parish Renewal Team Update and Key Survey Highlights & Insights” booklet. Kudos to the Parish Renewal Team (PRT).

The Bishop’s Lenten Renewal Gathering in Calgary will take place on March 20 at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church. All ministry leaders, and members of PC and the Finance Committee, are invited.

Preparations are underway for the Parish Renewal Planning Day on March 29. This will be the first time that all ministry leaders will come together for a time of prayer and discussion. Fr. Vargas noted that the planning day is critical to determine where there are ministry gaps. For example, possible new ministries might include an Outreach Ministry, a Mission Ministry and a Crisis Response Ministry.

SMCC will be sponsoring Feed the Hungry as part of the renewal initiative on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex starting on March 30.

5. Eucharistic Adoration Ministry Update – (Notes in italics provided by Eucharistic Adoration Ministry)

The Eucharistic Adoration Ministry has been quite active in the last month.

In February, representatives from the ministry met with Father Vargas who gave his approval for several initiatives:

- Creation and placement of question cards on the gathering tables to prompt discussion related to the ongoing consecration.*
- The ministry is working on creating a webpage that will link directly to the parish website.*
- Father has shared tentative plans for Eucharist development sessions, potentially in May.*
- Currently, Friday adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for Lent is underway. We are seeing a wonderful response, with many parishioners signing up for time slots and hope to continue to spread the message to all parishioners.*
- Extended Exposition on Fridays will begin on April 25, 2025.*
- Selling of the books of being done at the gift shop, but it looks to us that is not as successful as it was when we did on a separate table for that purpose. We are assessing the best course of action for it.*

New Items

1. Altar Server Ministry

There are currently 64 altar servers. A pizza party was hosted in February, with prayer, practice and pizza. The intention is that a pizza party will be held every 3 months. Scheduling (as opposed to “showing up”) has helped to increase the number of altar servers available at Masses.

2. Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour

Parishioners have requested that Holy Hour start at 3 pm. Fr. Vargas noted that it would create a conflict with the practice time for the Sunday 5:00 pm musicians. Reconciliation will be available beforehand from 1:15 – 2:00 pm, but the preference is that people go to confession before Divine Mercy Sunday.

3. St. Francis of Assisi Relic

SMCC is in receipt of a 2nd class relic of St. Francis of Assisi. The relic will be introduced to SMCC on Easter Sunday at all Masses and people will be invited to venerate the relic. Prior to Easter Sunday, it will be available at all PRT meetings and at the Parish Renewal Planning Day.

4. “Tap to Pay” Machine

The new “tap to pay” machine is in place; it seems to be well used.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Next Meeting – May 27, 2025

