



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
Monday, October 4, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86084249497?pwd=UU9xeFJVNUthSIJwWkhkdVZJUXpTQT09>

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AGENDA

St. Michael's Mission:

Guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Michael the Archangel Church brings the parish and the community closer to the Lord through worship, love and stewardship so that all may be one in Christ.

St. Michael's Vision:

A dynamic community of faith, celebrating our growing diversity as a beacon of the new evangelization.

Call to Order at 7:16 pm

Attendees: Monsignor Tolentino, Lisa, Christina, John Webster, Christina, Anna, Marisela, Cindy Mendez, Esnath, Cynthia, Eliamelisa

Absent: Edwin, Rene, Deacon Curtis, Helder

I. Call to Order & Welcome to Cynthia Lewis

Lisa

Taylor

Thank you for joining us – delighted to be here and learn more about. You are responsible for sharing the life of the entire parish.

II. *Opening Prayer/Reflection**

Msgr. Tolentino

Fratelli tutti

Monsignor asked Lisa to share with us the summary for new encyclical by Pope Francis. Monsignor Tolentino encourages the Parish Council members to read it.

What are tangible ways to create fraternity in social life and every day? Pope Francis mentioned this global health emergency indicates that we cannot live in isolation

This is exactly what we have been discerning here at the parish, and with this new encyclical. The very flavor of the gospel itself. This encyclical takes into mind the beliefs of the church. As we are looking into things that inspire us this is something that we can look upon. It is exactly what we need to hear during this time. There may be some type of workshop. I hope you read it and be inspired by it. He thinks its tremendous.

In today's climate there is an emphasis on nationalism and it is different than it can be looked upon different by our leaders.

Jesus Christ breaks through the barriers with a message of unity and love. We do not want to spread news that is not gospel. We have to speak about the things we honestly believe in.

The magisterium, all the encyclicals that Pope Francis is writing is not a break of the church. He doesn't bite his tongue. In the encyclical Pope Francis speaks on racism and immigration as well.

III. Approval of the September Minutes

Lisa Taylor

Christina - Addendum – based on her experience – people are sanitizing without direction.

Minutes were approved:

First by Eliamelisa

Second by Esnath

IV. Approval of Agenda

Eliamelisa Gonzalez

John – conversation about doing a phone campaign – under evangelization

Agenda was approved:

First by Anna

Second by Marisela

V. Michaelmas Debrief

Eliamelisa Gonzalez

The mass was widely attended and over 300 views on Facebook. Two other events are coming up in October and November.

VI. Finance Council Report

John Webster

For the period ending August 31st

Total \$83,835

Exp \$75,524

Surplus \$12,311

Ytd – \$17,968

Restoration project – \$127,100 right now we have raised \$15,500 – we are about 12% of our target. The second half of the chairs are coming in. They have started to install. They think they will be finished by Thursday. We are going to have the carpet cleaned before we moved upstairs and have it all cleaned up. We are also waiting for funding from Archdiocese. We hope to be able to reimburse ourselves. We should target Christmas to make our goal and encourage folks.

We should make a push at Thanksgiving, Christmas and end of year and call this the first phase of our fundraising and start at another time when things are better.

We also need to be sensitive to the economic climate.

Are we going to do Matthew 25 and Giving Tree? We are going to come to that when we get to the next sections. Refer to Fratelli Tutti and our responsibility for the poor. There are still some who are struggling and there are some

We need to decide on the things we need to ask for. We will see that Christmas is going to be for those who can afford it. People are in need and there are folks who can afford. It is an obligation for those who can give.

We need to decide what we want to do for this Christmas. We need to find ways to raise resources for those who are in need.

VII. First Fifteen Minutes

Cynthia Lewis

This came about as a suggestion was looking around on the internet about Lectio Divina. A multi parish event and at the end the pastoral associate – all the parish organizations start their meetings using Lectio Divina it's a reflection on the

1. Read the reading
2. Meditate
3. Contemplate
4. Share it

In this scenario they did it with their entire parish.

The purpose is to help us all deepen the understanding of who Jesus is. Through this method of the church looking at the scriptures together.

According to objective research many Catholics are not enjoying an intimate close relationship with Jesus, and we can do this by encountering him in the Gospel.

Sharing together is always enlightening and enriching.

Share a link with folks to view and create give them a resource packet.

Bring this up to a vote at the next meeting.

Proposal on the e-mail

Ideas we will discuss in our November meeting
Do outreach to the various ministries

MT – a great way to begin meetings – it can be done in 15 mins. We can do it in our own homes and spaces. Perhaps what we are talking about during the time of pandemic is a great way to learn. MT has done talks on Lectio Divina. That is why I give you a time to reflect and ask you what you think about it. It is hard to do Lectio Divina. Prayer requires a commitment and we have to put ourselves in God's presence and we have to empty ourselves with so many distractions. I need to think about this, etc. To do Lectio Divina you have empty yourself of all that stuff

You read a brief passage from the NT and you have read it once or a second time and we then complete it. Lectio Divina which is reading and then the Meditatio there is the Oratio and we pray what we meditated on. It then calls us to action. The way to truly act on this way is to move through the agenda. We rely on God for the stillness, the Lectio and the meditation and the prayer to lead us through the agenda.

We can do this in our PC meetings and we can end our meetings with the prayer of St. Michael. It is a great way to start a meeting and Monsignor would like to move forward with it. We are moving forward.

Recommendation to MT to consider the proposal and implement it.
MT will begin with the November PC meeting. Let us look at the reading from the previous Sunday's reflection.

Praying as a community is to center us in God's work rather than our own agendas.

VIII. **Evangelization -**

John Webster

Phone campaign – we consider doing another phone outreach and encourage folks to come back to mass and include the details about beautification of the church.

We should reach out to additional parishioners to help reach out to make the phone calls. The calls are a great idea. Fulfill our responsibility to care for one another, care for the poor, and the parish.

Consider what you would like to hear and what would you like to say?

Topics to consider for a script

- How are you doing?
- What can we do for you?
- We want to make sure we can show our care and share our concern for the parishioners
- Mention replacing the windows, the church roof, the new piano, painted, and refurbishing the pews

Can we add additional masses? We currently have an English mass at 10 am and a Spanish mass at 1pm. The Spanish mass grew and we added another Spanish mass on Saturday. Once the English mass got full and we added the 8 am. Even though we currently do not the obligation to mass we should remain parishioners to keep the Lord's day.

The current mass schedule makes it difficult for the those who are teaching on Sunday to attend the mass. They would be able to attend a Saturday mass. Do we change the religious education classes? Do we need to add another mass are we going to add to Saturday or Sunday? We need the feedback to know what would be best. Monsignor requests that someone speak to Benjamin and the teachers and we can have a Saturday English mass if needed. It is a great suggestion to discuss when to add a mass for folks who would like to attend.

Esnath will discuss with Benjamin the mass times for folks who are attending or participating in Religious Education.

CDC guidance indicates that the virus is airborne. Can we have a mass with no singing for those who do not feel comfortable attending? The guidelines from the of the Archdiocese indicate that they do not cancel

USCCB the center of the hold of Christian of the life of the church leads to full participation of the faithful and in all the documents of the church in attending the full church it requires full participation.

Some parishioners are afraid to go to a mass. Not signing is not right attitude of the liturgy. It was suggested that we can segregate the church with singers and non-singers. No signing allowed in the mass may make some parishioners more open to attending mass.

Some churches have masses who have virtual choirs. The communications committee has done a good job of sending the information and guidelines are on the church platforms. Can they be posted as a visual reminder on site?

How about getting a plastic safeguard for the soloist and to avoid spreading germs?

The concern is those who are singing not just the cantors but those who attend the mass.

Note to continue to think about – are you not coming to church because there is singing? We can poll the parishioners to see how they feel about the singing.

IX. Hispanic Committee Report

Father Jose

a. Bilingual Mass in Honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, October 11, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

Parish Council has been encouraged to attend the mass in honor of Hispanic Heritage month.

Not everyone was able to attend but we are working on the ministries in the Spanish community and the report of RCIA begins with the catechesis. They are working online and it is going well. The ushers are helping in the masses. We are looking forward the celebration for the Hispanic Tradition and the preparations are going well.

There are some upcoming webinars about Immigration. Immigration is a topic that is important to all in the Hispanic Committee.

The youth group is gathering in the School on Saturdays. We are encouraging people to live the faith and those who are high risk should do the mass online. Very little chairs are empty during the mass and the Hispanic community are living the faith.

X. 7 Principles Service

Lisa Taylor

a. Life and Dignity of the Human Person (Lisa Taylor)

1. Webinar on Racism on October 17, 2020 from 10am - 12 pm

Using our time, talent and treasure for the parish and the parishioners.

Helder has been working hard on this, and it will be a great program. The flyer has been attached. The Parish Council is encouraged to participate

b. Call to Family, Community and Participation (Edwin Mendez)

1. Michaelmas

We spoke about the mass earlier.

2. RCIA Evangelization (Lisa, Nicole, Deacon Eale)

Proposal of the RCIA evangelization for folks to review. How can we better use the virtual platform to engage folks in the activities? Sometimes we do not have a sign-up process. You can use flock notes to see who has viewed the information and track.

The e-mail format is nice and concise but it can get stale and repetitive. We can extend some effort and

RCIA will begin to have posters in the vestibule, emails, evangelization Monday where folks give their testimony to invite others to participate in RCIA. Make sure to share with Benjamin and the chair of the education committee.

Since they were not available share with their committees and if there are no comments that would stop then move forward.

c. Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)

1. Workshop on Immigration on November 21, 2020 from 10 am – 12 pm

Ask that all PC members attend.

d. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (Anna Smith)

1. Feeding 41 families in Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, and Olney

Casseroles are still being done. Will follow up with Sharon about Matthew 25 and see what the Archdiocese is doing around

Working with various church committees. We are getting the attention of Montgomery County as well. Jason is still doing the groceries to the homes. They are delivering to the homes of those in need. We are trying to augment and we are starting to find other ways to develop a way a relationship outside of the

e. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (John Webster)

Prior to the lock down in March they were going to have an in-person discussion. If it is OK we would like to revive and make it virtual.

f. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)

Ongoing of the rosary novena together with the Migrant Heritage. Is live on Facebook. Praying for the pandemic, unrest, sick, deceased. Those who are able to participate. It spread headed by the Filipino ministry at St. Michael.

g. Care for God's Creation (Vacant)

The Green project has been submitted and down to one vendor. The letter is being sent to the Archdiocese. It cost about \$46,000 and we may approach the local business and Montgomery County. Jason is looking for volunteers to help with the fundraising.

XI. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

a. Recruitment of Parish Council Members for 2020-2021

Today we welcomed Cynthia. The Parish Council members are encouraged to think of members who should be considered to join the council.

b. Reservation/Scheduling Form Due October 16, 2020

Forms need to be submitted to Cindy. Any meeting in person or virtual.

c. Annual Report FY20

Michelle Webster has been working on our report. She has done a great job, and we are waiting for the final go ahead.

d. October is the Month of the Holy Rosary (See Virtual Events Sponsored by the Sodality)

- 1. The annual "America Needs Fatima" Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 10th, at 12:00 p.m. -- St. Michael the Archangel parish will join thousands of people across the U.S. in this praying the Holy Rosary for our country and the world.**
- 2. "Tea with Mary Under the Tent" returns for its annual fall appearance on Sunday, October 18th, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. -- Bring your favorite cup of tea and learn about the origins of the Rosary, ask your questions about Mary, learn about the international "faces of Mary," meet Sodalists, and more!**

3. **Weekly Rosary Prayer Teleconference on Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. -- Unique Rosary meditations allow us to see Jesus more profoundly. Pray for your special intentions and an end to the pandemic in union with fellow parishioners.**
4. **Sodality Orientation Workshop, Saturday, October 24th, and Saturday, October 31st -- From the comfort of home, get to know your parish Sodality and the fellowship, prayer, and service opportunities this community offers.**

Please see Cynthia for those of you who are interested in joining. Come to the workshop and two gentlemen are members.

Christina to share information on the Filipino ministry novena.

Approval for the information for Sodality to be posted tomorrow.

e. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

1. **November 2, 2020**
2. **December 7, 2020**
3. **January 4, 2021**
4. **February 1, 2021**
5. **March 1, 2021**
6. **April 5, 2021**
7. **May 3, 2021**
8. **June 7, 2021**

Friendly reminder all meetings are the first Monday of the month. It is important to know what is going on. Please make an effort to come and please let Lisa know if you cannot make it and anticipate the absence.

Be ready for the Lectio Divina.

XII. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

No pending business.

XIII. New Business

Lisa Taylor

No new business.

XIV. Closing Prayer

Father Jose

Meeting adjourned 8:58pm

Next Meeting: November 2, 2020

REMINDER –Parish Council members assigned to serve as liaison officers to Councils, Committees and Ministries are responsible for serving as ministry coordinators and for keeping the Parish Council

informed of ministry activities and new information or challenges of which the Council should be aware through monthly reports submitted no later than one week in advance of a Council meeting.