



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD  
November 2, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86403190549?pwd=WHhGb2V5SExIV3J2RUNkWUo2U3V3dz09>

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Meeting ID: 864 0319 0549

Passcode: 105393

**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.

Present: Monsignor Tolentino, Lisa, Eliamelisa, Edwin, Helder, Cynthia, John, Marisela, Fr. Jose, Maria Christina, and Esnath

Absentee: Dhel, Rene, Deacon Curtis, Anna

Call to order at 7:10 pm

**I. Call to Order & Welcome to Cynthia Lewis**

**Lisa Taylor**

**II. Opening Prayer/Reflection**

**Msgr. Tolentino**

Today is the feast of All Souls Day.

For those who have died and are waiting the fulfillment of their hope. When we talk about purgatory we do not speak about their happiness. While we speak of their hope is a realized hope. Once they are purged of their sins they will see God face-to-face.

## Psalm 23 – Monsignor Tolentino

Shared reflection on Psalm 23.

God and loss are a part of life, and He is present as we deal with the loss of our loved ones.

Whenever you are reading the scriptures and something strikes you, it is good to stop and reflect on that which strikes you. What strikes me is where it says, he restores my soul. The soul of the world is in great need of being restored not just in our country but the whole world. It seems that the current administration has for me exposed that is within us in our acceptance and rejection of other people. I think it will take a great deal more than a president to heal. That is really the task of all those of all those who believe in God. My prayer is that He will allow our country to be restored. The good news is that we have been redeemed and we should participate more fully in the blood of Jesus Christ.

I see the Lord as a shepherd and we are his sheep. In the gospel of John chapter 10 he dies for our sake and for that reason there is nothing that I lack. All the gifts we need we have in Jesus. We need to continue to work for Him to continue receiving his gifts and building a community of faith and helping one another to receive his salvation and resurrection.

Walking through the darkest valleys makes me think of the pandemic, the state of the country, and a good friend of mine lost her sister and other deaths. It seems like there is a lot of darkness going on. I see in the psalm how the Lord has walked through the darkness with them. We have martyrs who have passed the faith to us. The lord has demonstrated his presence in the history of the church.

The line, that I lack nothing comforts me to hear that because right now there is a lot of stuff going in the world and my life. Because of nature the struggle I have to see myself I see my shortcomings and to hear that line there is nothing that with God I cannot do. There is no situation, the results tomorrow the pandemic I can still have peace. The line hit me and I was not ready for it but helps me a lot to see that I lack nothing.

This psalm has so many aspects and it reminds me that it allows me to expect anything. Funeral after funeral and death and we just receive and we see that the Lord is always with us no matter what we go through. We just have to do what we have to do. The young man who died in Virginia is close to her. Due to all souls day, I ask that we remember his family in prayer. His name is Frank.

Three of my family members are now with the Lord and my faith strengthens Him. Only my prayers for them can speed up their entrance. What I know is when you pray for them and ask them for guidance. The Lord has guided me as my shepherd but I know that I have family members who will be with me in my journey.

The Lord is my shepherd reminds me of how the Lord protects me. I have had three accidents this year, and the one last week was big including fractures. It was something unexpected. I learned to drive five years ago, and I am thankful to God that in terms of car accidents it could have been worse.

It was a great gift for me to hear that someone was shaken. It was clear to me that death was not a part of God's creation. There is something wrong with death and things that lead to death like sin. Death is not the end of life, but the end of sin. It is our responsibility to pray for those who have died. It is striking to hear that God will provide for me that in light of all the things that have happened and the joys and challenges that we face – thanks be to God that he is always with us. Since He is with us, we lack nothing. If we have God, we have everything. God never denies our access to Him.

Let us pray to Him.

### **III. Approval of the October Minutes**

**Lisa Taylor**

No edits

Motion: John

Second: Eliamelisa

### **IV. Approval of Agenda**

**Eliamelisa Gonzalez**

Amendment to the Agenda - Add the Pastors Report after the approval of the agenda

Motion: John

Second: Edwin

### **V. Pastors Agenda**

Pews – hopefully everyone has seen either in person or in

We received \$1,000 from Sodality. They have always been very generous to our Parish.

It was a very generous donation for the Pews.

Fr. Jose will be providing a report on maintenance and ground.

Fr. Jose, Cindy, and Monsignor is going to ask folks to remove their items from the Parish.

The rectory is fine

Williamsburg needs new curtains

The Romero Center needs to be gutted

Fr. Jose and Cindy will put together a report indicating what will be done by parishioners or contractors.

It would be great for the building to look great for when folks come back.

Michelle Webster will recommend some stencils for the school so that it can look livelier and inviting.

These are the types of things we want to do.

Fr. Jose and Monsignor are looking to teach and maintain the building and focus on what we can do to teach virtually for advent.

Cecilia Flores would like to have representation of the Tilma to come to St. Michael's. There are several things going on other than funerals.

### **VI. Finance Council Report**

**John Webster**

The collection for \$51,791 is the lightest month of the year so far

Expenses \$77,000

The operating deficient was \$25000

Cumulative July – Sept 2020  
-\$12,000 – During July  
+\$12,000 – During August  
-\$26,000 During Sept.

We are waiting for the final October 2020 numbers.

We are in the offertory renewal season. Last year we had volunteers provide witness testimony to the parish as to how God has blessed them in their lives and how through time, talent, and treasure.

Take the next step campaign we could have volunteers provide video testimony to bring more attention and focus to the offertory needs.

Thank you, Cynthia, for the Sodality contribution.

GoFundMe is about \$12,000. The drive has brought in about \$16,000. We are at 13% of the goal. Transaction fee takes about 2%. Could we use Zelle? Donations can be made directly to the campaign at the Parish.

We want to make sure that everyone is aware of the campaign for the Pew Restoration.

Let the Communications Committee know of things going on at the Parish.

Can we post a banner on the website? It will be posted again. It is currently listed under Donate.

Let us know when something else needs to be said, and information needs to be reminded. Any insights folks can share will be helpful.

Some churches will have a barometer for large scale fundraising. If you have specific suggestions please see that the finance council gets them. It is important for Monsignor to see things.

I would suggest a direct campaign with Monsignor as the star in a YouTube video. Lisa will work on video campaign.

Lost one member and the council is looking to see if they will recruit another member. The minimum is three. In particular for those who have a passion for fundraising.

The financial council will be recruiting for an additional member.

## **VII. Advent and Christmas Tolentino**

**Msgr.**

Children's mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> - no nativity skit will be difficult to get everyone together.

Monsignor Tolentino will be putting together an advent calendar.

One mas in English and one in Spanish

Regular mass schedule for Saturday at 6 and two masses on Sunday

The mass schedule is not changing at this time.

We did other events in the past like soup and scripture.  
During advent, Monsignor and Fr. Jose will host virtual sessions.

We could explore having virtual bible study.

Deacon Ealey hosts session on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. He did a summer series for marriage sessions.

Suggestion – December 31<sup>st</sup> there are some years that Monsignor has exposed the blessed sacrament to let folks come in for Adoration. It is suggested we do this again this year.

Can we do something to create a sense of community that is safe to create community outside of mass? try to keep up with what they are saying is safe for Halloween or Thanksgiving. How can we follow the guidelines?

If there are ideas, we want to make sure to social distance, use masks, and sanitize.

Lisa will share an e-mail about an event that is hosted at another church.

If we do something virtually it will take every member of the council to participate.

How many participated in the event against racism? It is important for the council to participate in the various events and encourage others to attend.

What are people excited about doing?

Parents who have children in school are really exhausted. Many parents during the week are tired of logging in for something else during the week. Parents are sick of looking at a screen.

We have an event of the Dignity and Rights of workers. This Thursday at 7pm and we will take a look at the event against racism to see how we can improve.

**VIII. First Fifteen Minutes**  
**Lewis/Lisa Taylor**

**Cynthia**

Lectio Divina is already in practice in the council. For the next meeting we will put some information out before the meeting. The council members can also look up the steps for Lectio Divina. There is lots of information out there. Cynthia has shared an overview of Lectio Divina.

Cynthia shared using it will small groups within Sodality and it has been an experience.

We need to think about how to operationalize and how to implement throughout the parish ministries. Take this back to the communities we are a part of their meetings and let them know we are embracing Lectio Divina.

Everyone should take a look at Busted Halo and bring back any thoughts and suggestions. We should give everyone the responsibility to look it over and discuss in the next meeting.

## **IX. Hispanic Committee Report**

**Helder Hernandez**

Bilingual Hispanic heritage month mass was a success and it was well attended and received. Monsignor's homily was great. The event against racism was also successful. It took a lot of effort to put it together. Having done the event in a hybrid manner was good. Those who were able to attend in person it was good.

The hybrid system works well. It is a manner to ensure the safety precautions. We are preparing ourselves for Advent and Christmas. The next meeting is next Monday. Hispanic Council should share the next agenda with Monsignor ahead of the meeting.

## **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**

Most of the attendees were from the Hispanic Committee. One member from the black community and about three from the Filipino community. There were close to 300 views on Facebook.

Encourage the communities to make events their own. I would have liked of more diversity in person. If we understand the importance of diversity as leaders, we can share that with others.

WE hope to have a dialogue that is clear and loud. Pregonero wrote an article before and after the event highlighting it including the speakers.

The outreach part helps. If you reach out to the folks, or a text or a call. It is important to see those who are next to us and see them as individuals.

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

#### **1. RCIA Evangelization**

Nicole shared some testimonies and they are available online.

### **c. Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)**

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

In relation to Psalm 23 – he makes me lie down in pastures and he lets me lie in still waters.

It is very rewarding to do things for the Kingdom of God but it takes a lot of patience. We have to make sure touch certain aspects of the issues.

In communication with USCCB we wanted to host in May but due to the pandemic we have had to push back. We are still waiting for confirmation. Ashley has been very helpful but we are waiting on the clinic colleagues. We may have to push to December or next year.

She has done a great job with the events that Ashely has hosted.

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

**1. More Volunteers for feeding families in Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, and Olney (<https://www.letusbegin.org/volunteer-links/>)**

We can see how we can support Jason and spread the word to help deliver the meals. It is a good chance to and a great experience. You just go grocery shopping and deliver some smiles. You can deliver and then call and let them know that the food is there.

There are at least 45 families who are receiving and 70 donors. There is also a waitlist for some families.

Sodality is working with Jason to assist him. Sodality is giving individual donations and general donations. This is an initiative they are working to support.

He is in great need of drivers.

**2. Catholic Charities will be sponsoring a coat drive. They asked all donations to be received on November 20. The service committee needs volunteers to take the coats to the Rockville office. Cindy stated we could leave bins in the vestibule at the front of the church.**

Donations should be received by November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help contact Anna directly.

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

**1. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers workshop will be on Thursday, November 5 at 7PM.**

Share this information with the various communities within the parish. Currently there are seven individuals who are signed up. This will be via Go-to-Meeting. Those who want to attend need to receive the link in advance. We must register to attend.

**f. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)**

There need for some masks that could be made available. One of the ushers had an issue when someone wanted to come in without a mask. Is it possible for the church to have some masks for those who do not want to wear masks or do not bring them.

Continue to do the rosary for those needs. At times they are issues with Facebook but they

**g. Care for God's Creation (Vacant)**

Jason is continuing to do the proposal. The project is still waiting for county approval. This project in particular support the Sligo Creek we hope to get support from the local community.

## **XI. Administrative Matters**

**Lisa Taylor**

### **a. Recruitment of Parish Council Members for 2020-2021**

Knights of Columbus at this time decline to participate because they meet at the same time as we do. They support the parish council, but cannot at this time commit.

### **b. Sodality Announcements**

- 1. The Sodality is hosting of the Tilma of St. Juan Diego for veneration at our parish during the month of November. The dates for presentation of the Tilma will be announced. The Sodality will be working with fellow ministries to give honor to Our Lady of Guadalupe whose feast day is Saturday, December 12, 2020.**

Cecilia Flores is currently working with the Archdiocese to bring the Tilma to St. Michael's. We do want to work with other ministries to do that. There is a tentative plan.

Continue to pray the monthly rosary and are also including the Pope's intentions. This month especially for the repose of the faithfully departed.

- 2. The Sodality's suggested Rosary prayer intentions for the month of November and thoughts on how to pray the Rosary in the midst of our every day lives are on the parish website. The Sodality continues to invite all to pray the Rosary as a community on Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. The conference call telephone number is 605-562-0400, access code 1941905. Pope Francis has asked the Church to pray regarding "Artificial Intelligence: We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind".**
- 3. The Sodality encourages the parish to pray the Rosary for the repose of the souls of the faithfully departed on All Souls Day on November 2nd and throughout the month.**
- 4. In honor of All Saints Day on November 1st, the Sodality acknowledges Black Catholic History Month established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is an opportunity to ask Our Blessed Mother to intercede for the cause for Sainthood of six black Catholic Americans: Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, Servant of God Julia Additional Sodality suggestions for parish celebration of Black History Month are being discussed.**

There is not a black catholic saint at this time. However, this is a list of those that are in the path to sainthood. During this month especially we want to bring this to the forefront. In the heels of the racism discussion and what is going on in the country we want to encourage this.

Have an essay contest for children of the parish to select an individual and what about that saint is helping that child understand their faith. They were thinking of giving away some backpacks with school supplies. Maybe giving a cash award of \$50 or \$25. This would be a good idea for those who work with the confirmation students. Reach out to Doug or Benjamin.

Consider doing a display in the church of these individuals including bios. Cynthia will share a link to share with the council so that we can all learn more about these individuals.

Share the Road to Canonization – the prayers are available but it is important to share the miracles they have completed. It may be a good idea to the Holy cards.

Sodality is considering a virtual communion brunch.

Would like to invite sister Rita to speak about Mother Lange. They would like to host a virtual event. They are the oldest order of African American sisters worldwide.

**c. Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

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

**XII. Pending Business**

**Lisa Taylor/Parish Council**

- a. Request by the Catechists concerning an additional/Saturday mass.

At this time the catechists would like to continue attending virtually.

However, there are some individuals who would like to attend Saturday mass. The 4pm Saturday mass was mostly attended by the older parishioners, and they are not attending in person.

Currently the earlier mass which was added is not filled to capacity including the Covid-19 restrictions.

Please report back that was said and report back if this is still an issue.

We can increase the number of masses when the need arises but we have not received requests.

- b. Matthew 25 and Giving Tree  
Lisa will talk to Anna Smith about this.
- c. Partnership Fund Application for compensation for damage to church property  
Lisa recommended that the parish submit an application. The amount of those award is \$2,000 and it was approved.

**XIII. New Business**

**Lisa Taylor**

No new business.

**XIV. Closing Prayer**

**Father Jose**

**Next Meeting: December 7, 2020**

Meeting adjourned – 9:09 pm

***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.