



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
October 3, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

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: Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, Rev. Carlos Gutierrez, Deacon Oscar Mendez, Lisa Taylor, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, Edwin Mendez, Tom Dawson, Jim Budish, Esnath Mtonga, Cynthia Lewis, John Webster, Lilian Juarez, Cristina Sian, Cindy Mendez, Brigit Rweikiza, Helder Hernandez, Maria Carmona.

I. Call to Order

Lisa Taylor 7:07 p.m.

II. Opening Prayer/Reflection

Msgr. Tolentino

Monsignor reflected on a handbook call "For the rest of your life" by Matthew Kelly. Become an icon of goodness, and it takes the gospel of the good Samaritan. Are our hearts inclined toward the needs of others? The world needs you and me to collaborate with God and each other.

Everyone reflected on the parable of the good Samaritan.

III. Approval of the September Minutes

Lisa Taylor

First: Eliamelisa

Second: Tom Dawson

IV. Approval of Agenda

Lisa Taylor

Lisa asks that item #6 be deleted from the agenda. Monsignor said instead he will read a letter in reference to this.

Monsignor proposes that anything that it really needs attention, to please mention in the meeting.

Monsignor requests for parish council meeting to gather at a retreat in person for a day of reflection.

We need to form an executive committee to form a monthly agenda for parish council meetings. Also, we have the organizational chart, but before we discuss it to make sure it is updated. Monsignor has some updates for the organizational chart.

How are we moving forward with the Synod? Monsignor would like us to look into this. Tom Dawson, Maria Carmona and Lisa agree for a retreat for parish council. Lisa asks do we need a one day or two? Monsignor would like the idea of the members.

Lisa recommends that we have an ad hoc committee to work on the Parish Council Retreat.

Tom, Maria Carmona, Fr. Carlos, Jim, Eliamelisa.

V. Welcome to New Parish Council Members **Msgr. Tolentino**

Lisa asks for a brief introduction. Monsignor suggests that we wait and do this during the retreat.

VI. Address from John Firman **Lisa Taylor**

Monsignor read a draft letter from John Firman, a professor of the American University that has offered to lead this meeting.

With the guidance and support of Monsignor Tolentino, St. Michael's is launching a continuing group discussion on the Future of the Catholic Church in America. The goal of the group will be to talk through a series of critical, and difficult, Church issues and to share thoughts on each issue for the Monsignor's awareness and consideration.

Members of the Catholic Church are asking important questions and raising concerns about a variety of issues in the church in the early 21st century. Vatican directives affecting Catholics throughout the world while members of local parishes explore their uniquely personal and spiritual feelings about these issues. Examples include:

- Improving our ability to communicate our concerns to the both the Diocese and the Vatican as it makes global decisions affecting the Church in the US
- Speeding the pace of reform as the Church continues to deal with pedophilia among its clergy.
- Addressing the sanctity of life from conception to natural death with a focus on racism, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, gun violence, poverty, mental health, suicide, imprisonment, the death penalty, and issues profound importance to women including birth control and abortion.
- Paving the way to ordination of married men to the priesthood.
- Paving the way to ordination of women to the diaconate and the priesthood.
- Rethinking how the church thinks about, speaks to and welcomes members of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Honoring the many gay clergy in the church by allowing them to acknowledge their sexual orientation.

These and any other issues of group members bring forward will be the focus of the group's work. There is no expectation of consensus of any issue. The only important outcome will be learning about and thinking through a set of critical and complex church issues. John Firman, a longtime parishioner of St. Michael the Archangel has volunteered to lead this new discussion group.

Monsignor Tolentino: As we can see, Professor Firman's thinking – if we look at his concerns, they are not the same of the synod but we should look into following up with this.

Lisa will follow up on this.

VII. Michaelmas/Synodality Town Hall **Msgr. Tolentino/Lisa/Eliamelisa**

Monsignor suggests that we add the national synthesis of the synod to the Synodality Town Hall and for this to be forwarded to all parish council members.

VIII. Parish Center reopening

Father Carlos

Lisa thanks everyone who helped cleaned the parish center. Monsignor requests that we do an article for parish times.

Father Carlos comments that the parish center is open beginning tomorrow. We are aware that the boiler works for only half of the building. Cindy will send an email soon for everyone to know this information and how to get access.

We are continuing to work on the parish center basement floor.

IX. 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Lisa Taylor

- a. **Life and Dignity of the Human Person (Lisa Taylor)**
- b. **Call to Family, Community and Participation (Edwin Mendez)**
- c. **Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)**
- d. **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable ()**
- e. **Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (John Webster)**
- f. **Solidarity (Cristina Sian)**
- g. **Care for God's Creation (Jason Giovannettone and Darrell Smith)**

Parish Council members are asked to volunteer for each.

Monsignor – We need to give this information long before the retreat, so that members can come prepared to discuss.

X. Finance Council Report

John Webster

July Report – The accountant has been busy and will provide August and September soon.

Income: \$62,680

Expenses: \$89,653.00

Deficit: \$26,973.00

Pew restoration: \$63,666.00

July we received: \$804.00

Annual Appeal: \$57,902.00

We will launch a stewardship campaign and take the next step soon.

XI. Hispanic Committee Report

Helder Hernandez

Everything is going well. In reference to Ministries of lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, we have 2 interested in joining both the lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.

Immigration and domestic violence workshops are in mind to be offered at St. Michael's soon.

XII. Evangelization Committee

Lisa Taylor/John Webster

Lisa, Janice and John Webster are members of this committee.
Parish outreach telephone call for Advent and Christmas.

Monsignor suggests for the new DRE to be included in this committee.

Father Carlos is visiting different houses, and some non-catholics.

Monsignor: John Webster, when the calls are made for parishioners, please include that Fr. And Msgr. are available for visits.

Thanksgiving celebration – Please give some thought as to when to celebrate Thanksgiving Day Mass.

We will be sending an email to ask everyone about what day to celebrate Thanksgiving. Three dates are Proposed: Sunday before thanksgiving, Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and Friday before Thanksgiving.

XIII. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

a. Farewell/Thank You to Cindy Mendez

b. Pictures/Bio for website – October 23, 2022 (Submit to Lisa and John Webster)

XIV. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

a. Adding a 9:30 am Spanish Mass on Sundays

b. Volunteer for Photography and Videography

c. Hiring Process for New Religious Ed Director – We have hired a DRE.

Montgomery County Announces \$800,000 to Support Security Needs of Nonprofit Organizations -

Lisa asks Father Carlos to meet with her to follow up about this.

d. Hosting St. Michael's movie

XV. New Business

Lisa Taylor

XVI. Closing Prayer

Father Carlos

Next Meeting: November 7, 2022

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.