

Meeting Minutes for St. Michael's Parish Pastoral Council
Tuesday, March 3rd (Pending Approval)

Members Present: Mark Allen, Meghan Bishoping, Mike Bradford, Virginia Chadwick, Anne Marie Gherardini, Connie Gillette, Don Harris, Elizabeth Manuszak, Pat McGinnis, Bob Murphy, Father Mike Quaine, Sue Rakowski, Julie Watanabe

Call to Order –7:03 pm

Opening Prayer – All

Minutes of previous meeting- approved by Bob Murphy, seconded by Don Harris

Enrichment – Reflection and discussion of 3/8 mass readings

- First Reading (First Genesis 12:1-4A): amazed by the commitment of Abram to follow God's command; context of Abram story (he was so comfortable in his life, and yet he followed God's call without knowing what was in front of him); one of the earliest covenants (before Adam and Moses, after Noah); historical time frame (time between Abram and Moses-hard to measure, but many, many generations); story of Joseph (sold into slavery in Egypt)
- Second Reading (Second Timothy 1:8B-10): challenge of being called to a holy life by God's design (hard to see God's plan in our suffering and struggles); challenge of understanding God's plan before time began (understanding the vastness of it)
- Gospel Reading (Matthew 17:1-9): Peter, James, and John have a religious experience that they can't quite communicate it; Peter's first inclination is to build something

Pastoral Team Report

Fr. Mike: March 10th meeting at Sacred Heart for phase two parishes for Strategic Planning Meeting (Bob and Father Mike will go, invitation will be extended to finance council as well); Father Mike will talk to parishioners at all masses this weekend about coronavirus (recommendations: stay home if you are sick; keep informed; wash your hands properly; avoid contact with eyes, hands, and mouth when your hands are dirty; be conscious of what you are doing; similar to cold and flu season-universal precautions; don't panic; communion cup will continue at mass; communion wafers by mouth will be discouraged; congratulations to Education Commission on Ash Wednesday literature table; congratulations to Deacon Franz and the Worship Commission, as well as the Education Commission, on "Mass" series on Thursdays; first communion service was very good (Elizabeth had a great homily); Michelle Hayes won 2020 Good Shepherd Inspired Award for service in Macomb County; \$1100 in sales in Faith at Work book sale (benefits Mary's Mantle); 4/18-Bob Voiland will be ordained as a transitional deacon; June 4th-Father Larry will be celebrating 60th anniversary of ordination (would like parish to have a celebration at 11:30 mass on June 7th); Sterling Heights police talked to Father Mike concerning a neighbor complaint about a military (gun) salute at one of our funerals (would like to have a discussion with Knights of Columbus and other groups about this issue); thank you Don Harris for the donated printers for the parish

Deacon Franz: unable to attend (family illness)

Old Business

- **Thursday Lenten Mass March 26 Check-In:** email will follow with responsibilities; would like to see strong Parish Council attendance

Commission Reports

- Vicariate: February meeting was cancelled; next meeting in April
- Worship: no February meeting; March meeting scheduled; 117 people attended “Mass” presentation and 150 at communion service (excellent reflection by Elizabeth Manuszak); Palm Weaving with Anna DiCicco session TBD; Stations of the Cross will be offered 2-3 times in the period before and during Holy Week-times TBD; Blessing of the food baskets will be held Holy Saturday at 11:00; Easter flowers ordered and decoration plan for Easter underway; 5 RCIA candidates celebrated Right of Election at the Cathedral last Saturday; meeting with Don to coordinate music for Holy Week, will continue “Tales of Wonder” at Vigil; incorrect interview with WWJ news radio this morning (he was misquoted about St. Michael taking away communion wine and holy water)
- Christian Service: February meeting, minutes emailed; smaller group met yesterday to review bylaws and it will be taken to entire commission at next meeting
- Education: minutes emailed out; some concerns about conversation that strayed during “Mass” and thoughts about how to keep it focused
- Evangelization: Bob will attend Missionary Strategic Plan on March 10th
- Youth Representative: March 22nd St. Timothy Award; March 20th NET retreat; Communion Service went well; chocolate making is underway (every Monday in Lent)

New Business

- **March 22nd Coffee and Donuts Sign-Up:** sign-up form passed around; parishioner request for decaf; will add decaf in a small carafe for masses

Round Table – Question about how to access church financial information (requests go through Father Mike; parishioners are welcome to attend Finance Commission meetings); Question about the discontinuation of communal confessions during weeknights (decision made from higher in the church hierarchy; parishioners can see Father Mike or Tim)

Closing Prayer – All

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 5th at 7 pm.

Adjournment – 8:34 PM

