

St. Michael's Parish Pastoral Council Minutes, November 16, 2017-11-21

Present: Fr. Murray Sample, Pastor; Fr. Glen Ball, Parochial Vicar; Deacon Gaston Mabaya; Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister; Peter Valiquet, Past Chairperson; Wayne Wolanski, Chairperson; Donna Thompson, Vice Chairperson; Mark Thompson, Financial Committee Representative; Larry McKenzie; Lucia Lehman; Darlene MacKenzie; Lola Gualtieri; Dorothy Solomon, recording secretary.

Regrets: Sylvain Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Marinette Laureano; Daniel Yurkewich. Opening prayer and reflection taken from Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30 Minutes from October 19, 2017 were adopted as presented.

St. Michael's Strategic Plan: - status updates were revised and accepted with a few amendments; found on the Parish website and hard copies are on the ushers' desks.

Ministry Fair: Social committee did an excellent job on food and decorations
-42 ministries were represented with an increase in the number of volunteer sign-ups of 100
-favourable reports from various sources suggest we keep the same format in the hall

Celebrations:

Church Picnic: tentative plans are underway for a picnic at East Park Golf Gardens in mid June by the K of C, C.W.L. and Youth Group

R.C.I.A. are connecting well and getting more comfortable with asking in depth questions
Donna and Mark Thompson had signed to be offertory gift bearers but another family requested if they may take that role and they were happy to oblige

Bible Study participants are attending from other parishes

Women of Grace Study Group to resume in January

Challenges: Both a celebration and a challenge the "Oremus" prayer study group, which focuses on personal prayer, has been offered three successful times with deep sharing.

The challenge aspect is to recruit more participants for the New Year offering. There is consideration of looking at timing and outreach by offering a different program, advertising within the Family of Parishes, or changing the time.

Financial Report: bank account balance - \$57 000; balance on loan to the Diocese - \$237 000
Thanksgiving Appeal - \$21 387, Parish budget \$49 500. The cost to mail out letters to remaining donor pledges is \$2 200.

Unbudgeted expenses: upstairs water fountain, lighting relay switches, upper floor exhaust fans will require attention, no cost has been established for these repairs yet. There will be a cost incurred for a retirement gift for the Rectory's cook and housekeeper after forty years of service.

Capital Campaign: washroom renovations are continuing, the contractor has not submitted an invoice yet. The "Give to Grow" campaign has done well with expectations that we will continue to receive funds.

Pastoral Team Reports:

Yana Adkinson: -visited each of the grade two classes at St. Kateri, St. Mark, St. Michael, St. Catherine of Sienna and St. John French Immersion Schools to prepare them for First Reconciliation.

- explained what sin is and how to do an Examination of Conscience
- prepared handouts and bookmarks with questions for Examination of Conscience, how to go to confession and an Act of contrition
- plan on one more visit to each school before First Reconciliation which will take place on December 3rd, 7th and 9th.
- planned and led R.C.I.A. sessions and discussed – *The Bible, The Story of Salvation, Who is Jesus? The Paschal Mystery, Different Ways of Praying, etc.*
- prepared Christmas Liturgy Sign-up board for lectors, ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, greeters and gift bearers. Prepared four folders for families who will do special prayers for “Lighting of the Advent Candles.”
- scheduled and coordinated *lector training and Eucharistic Ministers training*; prepared handouts for new volunteers
- wrote an article for the St. Michael’s Newsletter
- attended Emergency First Aid and CPR with AED Awareness Certification
- continued to support catechists that lead R.C.I.C. for children and sacramental preparation for children not in the Separate School System; provided them with additional materials, handouts and props.

Fr. Glen: Baptisms – There were six Baptisms in October and eight scheduled for November.

- the Bible study continues with good discussion being facilitated by myself, Deacon Gaston and Veronica Solis for 49 participants.
- following school Masses I drop in to classrooms for about ten minutes because the schools are so large to spend any length of time in each
- have been invited to teach about vocations next week for grade six class at St. Catherine of Sienna School

Deacon Gaston: attended First Aid, CPR with AED certification training for staff

- participated in the Social Justice Meeting; Oremus Prayer study group; Prayer Line Ministry and assisted with facilitating the Bible Study group.

Fr. Murray: Christmas schedule – December 23rd at 5:00 P.m.; 24th at 8:30; 10:30 (no 12:30); afternoon decorating nave; two masses at 4:30 p.m.; one mass each at 7:00 p.m.; 9:00 p.m.; Traditional Midnight Mass; 25th at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Christmas Day)
Feast of the Mary Mother of God –December 31st at 5:00 p.m.; January 1st at 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. this is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Confessions: all day Wednesday December 13th from 8:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.;
Friday December 15th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; 3:00 – 4:00; 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.;
Tuesday December 19th from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.; 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Parish is well prepared for the Advent and Christmas Season.

From the Bishop's Office: headlines about bill -C51 which is meant to update the Criminal Code. Of concern is the proposed removal of section 176, which prohibits obstructing a minister who is performing a religious ceremony, disturbing an assembly (whether the purpose of the assembly is religious, moral or social), or disturbing the order or solemnity of a meeting (again whether the purpose of the meeting is religious, moral or social). An Interfaith letter was co-authored by The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and The Association for Reformed Political Action and was presented before the Standing Committee. Representatives from a variety of faith traditions have endorsed the letter including from the Sikh, Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Buddhist traditions. For more information please contact: www.dol.ca/news/interfaith-letter-concerning-bill-c-51. A petition to be signed will be available.

Families of Parishes: Fr. Ross Bartley, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Lucan, is away on retreat and Fr. Murray and Fr. Glen will assist with any funerals that may occur during his absence. EDGE youth group was well attended; the topic was about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Both Fr. Murray and Fr. Glen heard confessions after the meeting. The parents were impressed and expressed a need and interest in receiving the Sacrament themselves.

Involvements outside the Pastoral duties: Fr. Murray is the Master of Ceremonies for the Bishop for Diocesan Celebrations. On Monday there will be a Funeral Liturgy in Windsor for Fr. Dennis Wilhelm. Fr. Murray acts as a Presiding Judge on the Marriage Tribunal. Fr. Murray is on the Council of Priests which acts as an Advisory Council to Bishop Fabbro about matters concerning the Diocese.

St. Josephine Bakhita, the African Caribbean Catholic Community, celebrates Mass on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in St. Michael's Church. All are invited to this celebration. Deacon Gaston Mabaya preaches and is also Deacon for this Community. Howie Wright reported a very successful effort with the Food Coalition truck endeavour. The surplus food was distributed between John Paul II High School and Mother Teresa High School. The budget dropped by \$160 because of the Food Coalition Truck. There was an extensive two page article in the London Free Press.

Adjournment and closing prayer: Wayne adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and Fr. Murray offered a closing prayer and blessing.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Please note!!!– the next meeting will be on December 14th at 7:30 p.m., the second Thursday of December, followed by a social.