

St. Damien of Molokai Parish Council
St. Gabriel Church – Lower Hall
9 September 2019, 6:00pm

Council Minutes

- I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer –
 - a. Meeting called to Order at 6:00pm by Parish Council President, Pete Arsenault.
 - b. Father Melnick led Parish Council in opening prayer
- II. Scripture Reading – Stan Kulas [Galatians 6:7-10]
- III. Attendance & Ministry Affiliation – Vicky Ascherman
- IV. New Business
 - a. Review & Acceptance of Council Minutes – A motion to approve 11 March 2019 council minutes was made by Marie Dixon.
 - b. Seconded by Stan Kulas and unanimously approved by council members
- V. Reports from Standing Committees

Liturgy Committee: Stan Kulas

1. Liturgy meeting held 5 September 2019 at St. Gabriel Hall
2. Children's Liturgy/Bible study during last years Mass averaged approximately 25 students.
 - a. This year we're planning to bring the children downstairs to the Church Hall at the start of Mass. This will give us an additional 5 minutes with the children. Otherwise program remains basically the same as it was in previous year.
 - b. Program will be held at the 11:00am Mass at St. Gabriel Church generally the first Sunday of each month. First session begins on 6 October 2019.
3. Adoration Chapel. Nick Chapman spoke about the newly created Adoration Chapel at St. Josephs Rectory. Dedication is scheduled for 22 October 2019; Feast of St. John Paul II.
 - a. Our goal is to have Adoration 24 hours a day 7 days per week.
 - b. Nick will be speaking at upcoming weekend Masses to encourage individuals to sign up for specific days and hours.
 - c. People from other parishes are also encouraged to become part of the adoration team. Specific details will be released, as individuals sign-up and a schedule and process is developed.
4. Bible Study. Fall session will now start on 15 October 2019 not 8 October 2019 and run for 6 weeks. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at St Gabriel Church Hall. The theme is "Making Sense of the Bible in the Catholic Tradition."

Building & Grounds Committee: Pete Arsenault

1. Handicap ramp at St. Gabriel Church has started with a completion date around end of September.

2. Parking lot construction for St. Gabriel church is on hold until Spring 2020 due to permit conflicts and coordination issues.
3. Columbarium at St. Joseph's cemetery is moving along. Next step is the buildings cement footing. Road network at the cemetery will start after the completion of the Columbarium.
4. Our Parish will conduct Fall cleanup for grounds at St. Gabriel and Joseph's churches along with each rectory. Working with Martha, a message will be placed in the bulletin, requesting volunteers. This is a good opportunity for C1 & C2 students to work on community hours.

Social Action Committee: Ellen Messina & Jim Welsh

1. Completed Ministry Contact / Directory now appears in the weekly bulletin.
2. Adoration Ministry is being added to support new Adoration Chapel at St. Joseph's rectory.
3. Parish council nominations to fill 4 vacancies by election is underway with currently 8 nominations submitted. Elections take place 5-6 October 2019.

Evangelization Committee: Michael Stewart

1. Started planning for additional outreach for our Luau and Fall Festivals.
2. Discussed goals for St. Damien of Molokai growth using Our Sunday Visitor (OSV).
3. Good outreach/welcome at Masses and socials focusing on;
 - a. Welcome to young, new and "lost" couples/parishioners
 - b. Outreach to families with children at St. Gabriel School and CCD programs
 - c. Revitalize parish to make it more active and vibrant
4. Exploring social media using My Parish App and other sites.

St. Gabriel School: Karla Neville – Principal

1. Cleaned out school building emptying several dumpsters.
2. HOPES [Helping Our Elementary Schools] dinner for middle schools is planned for Tuesday 24 September 2019 at Aqua Turf, Southington CT.
3. Our school will benefit from a college marketing student [intern] who will provide support focused on publicity of our school and programs.
4. PreK-4 is full, and PreK-3 has 5 open slots left.

Religious Education: Cyndie Glick

1. Most all catechists are returning.
2. New CCD program for grades 1, 3 & 4 and 5 - 8th by St. Mary's Press focusing more on scripture and engages parents during lessons.
3. Planning a meeting with parents and students on 15 September 2019.
4. Protecting God's children training is scheduled for 3 October 2019.
5. October 2019 children's Mass will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church.
6. November 2019 the 5th grade class will give an All Saints presentation between Masses at St. Gabriel Church.

7. This years Turkey drive is scheduled for 23 November 2019.

Pastors Report: Fr. Melnick

1. Fall Festival was a success. Many new activities and having an MC was helpful. Approximately 400 people attended with 60 volunteers.
2. Fifty [50] churches will be closing in the Archdiocese – announcement is due sometime around January 2020.
3. Our new ramp at St. Gabriel church has started and is on schedule.
4. OSV has been engaged and we are awaiting the results of the initial survey using hard copy, email blasts, and our Parish website.
5. Coffee hours will be 1st Sunday in both churches
6. Archdiocese Synod 1st gathering was held on 30 March 2019 at St. Thomas Becket, Cheshire CT. Fr. Melnick, Pete Arsenault, and Jackie Reardon are delegates and attended. Second meeting was 8 June 2019 at St. Bridgetts School, Cheshire CT with our delegates attending. Our next meeting is scheduled for 25-27 October 2019.
7. Father discussed his attempt to travel to Molokai and the lack of opportunity to visit without a sponsor due to current conditions on the island. Mudslides, lack of infrastructure and extreme difficulties at obtaining permissions were a direct factor influencing his visit. A pilgrimage to our namesake Parish is not possible at this time.

Open Remarks:

1. Deacon Carl thought the attendance at the Silver Rose Rosary sponsored by the Knights of Columbus was weak. He expressed that greater support to Parish activities should be given by all parishioners including council members.

VI. Next Meeting: 11 November 2019, St. Josephs Church, Doherty Hall at 6:00pm

VII. Scripture Reading: Jim Welsh

VIII. Closing Prayer: Deacon Carl Lickwar

IX. Adjournment: Pete Arsenault, 7:25pm