

St. Damien of Molokai Parish Council
St. Joseph Church – Lower Hall
11 November 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 – Deacon Carl

III. Attendance & Ministry Affiliation – Vicky Ascherman

IV. New Business

- a. Review & Acceptance of Council Minutes – A motion to approve 13 May 2019 Parish Council minutes was made by Marie Dixon.
- b. Motion seconded by Jackie Reardan and unanimously approved by council members.
- c. Council Officers were unanimously approved to serve a second year in office.

V. Reports from Standing Committees

Liturgy Committee: Stan Kulas

- 1) Liturgy meeting held 28 October 2019 at St. Gabriel Hall
- 2) Blessing of the Animals. Deacon Carl indicated it was well attended by over 40 people.
- 3) Public Rosary held on 12 October at St. Joseph Church with 40 people mostly from our parish attending.
- 4) Adoration Chapel. The chapel was dedicated by Father Melnick on 22 October (Feast day of St. John Paul II). Father stated the chapel was filled with parishioners for the dedication. Presently we have Adoration hours between from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday.
- 5) Children’s Liturgy Service. First service was held on 6 October. Bringing the children down to the Church Hall immediately after the start of Mass provides 5 extra minutes to educate our children. A number of parents provided assistance.
- 6) Mass for the Disabled. Celebrated by Father Cockayne on 20 October was very well attended and well received. Father Cockayne was very demonstrative and outgoing reaching out to all the disable attendees as well as all the children attending the Mass.
- 7) Do Your Believe Series. Current attendance is averaging about 20 people.
- 8) Bible Study: Diane Caron [instructor] has 29 people attending sessions including 3 parishioners from St. Gertrude Church. Currently sessions are held during the evening hours, however future studies will consider holding classes during the day.
- 9) Remembrance Mass. Father Melnick celebrated our annual Remembrance Mass at 2:00pm on 3 November at St. Joseph Church. Candles were sent to the families of 46 parishioners who died this past year.
- 10) Blessing of the Bread at Thanksgiving Mass. During Thanksgiving Mass at St. Joseph Church parishioners can take any of the blessed loaves home for Thanksgiving dinner. The parish will provide 20 loaves for people who want to participate that did not bring bread with them.
- 11) Preparation for the Advent Season:
 - i) Lighting of Advent Wreath Candles. We will continue this tradition again this year. Sign-up sheets will be present at the side entrance of St. Joseph and at the Broad Street entrance at St. Gabriel beginning the weekend of 16 & 17 November. Announcements were made at Masses and in the bulletin.
 - ii) Lessons in Carols. We will be hosting a “Lessons in Carols” get together sponsored by Windsor area Christian Churches on 8 December at St. Gabriel Church.

- iii) Candy Canes and Chocolate Coins. Candy canes will be distributed at Masses to celebrate the birthday of St. Nicholas and chocolate coins at Masses on the Epiphany.
- iv) Penance Service. Advent penance service is at St. Joseph Church on 10 December at 7:00pm.
- v) Christmas Mass Times. Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 4:00pm and 5:30pm at both churches with a 10:00pm Mass at St. Gabriel only. Christmas Day Mass will be at St. Joseph at 9:00am and at St. Gabriel at 10:30am.
- vi) Music and Pageantry. The children's pageant will be held at 3:30pm before the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Gabriel.
- vii) The adult choir will be singing at the 10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and will have a Christmas Carol sing along at 9:30pm before the 10:00pm Mass.

Building & Grounds Committee: Pete Arsenault

- 1) Handicap ramp at St. Gabriel Church is on schedule. Concrete ramp is complete, and we are awaiting installation of hand railings.
- 2) St. Gabriel Church Vestibule will be repaired before ramp opens.
- 3) St. Joseph's cemetery;
 - i) Columbarium cement footing is complete, awaiting delivery and installation of Columbarium.
 - ii) Repaving of cemetery roads will start upon completion of Columbarium.
- 4) Our Parish will conduct Fall cleanup and Christmas Decorating for grounds at St. Gabriel and Joseph churches along with each rectory. Working with Martha, a message will be placed in the bulletin requesting volunteers. Great 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 Parish weekly bulletin.
- 2) Adoration Ministry is being added to support new Adoration Chapel at St. Joseph.
- 3) Men's Retreat - Would like to have a vice chairman in both churches. Considering a new annual retreat time of June. Jim Welsh will contact Holy Family to coordinate a new Parish retreat date.
- 4) Parish council elections filled 4 vacancies through Parish elections. Peter Arsenault, Anne Marie Nasuta, Steve Van Gasbeck and Jackie Reardon.

Evangelization Committee: Michael Stewart

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

St. Gabriel School: Karla Neville – Principal

- 1) Open House on 3 November - 2 families attended
- 2) Girls basketball team is sharing our facility, coaching, and player resources with St. Corpus Christi.
- 3) School will benefit from a college marketing student [intern] who will provide support focused on publicity of our school and programs.
- 4) Catholic Schools week New England conducted a clothing and food drive raising \$840.00 to benefit Windsor Food Bank
- 5) St Gabriel School annual auction raised \$46,000.00.

Religious Education: Cyndie Glick

- 1) Protect God's Children 13 volunteers trained on 5 October.
- 2) Participating in Knights of Columbus Saint Poster Contest.
- 3) 7th & 8th grade students helped with children's Mass at both churches.
- 4) This year's Turkey drive is scheduled for 23 November.
- 5) 5th grade class will give an All Saints presentation in November between Mass at St. Gabriel Church.
- 6) 25 January is 1st Reconciliation
- 7) Student religious education enrollment is down this year.

Pastors Report: Fr. Melnick

- 1) Archdiocese Synod gathering was held at Farmington Marriott, 25-27 October, Farmington, CT. Fr. Melnick, Pete Arsenault, and Jackie Reardon were delegates who attended Synod. Father discussed the focus of the breakout sessions and thought the keynote speakers were good.
- 2) Parish survey had 437 people responding. Father had hoped for more but seemed to have a good amount of information. Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) will help Father and the committee use the survey results for parish planning.
- 3) Father briefly discussed his new Diocesan responsibilities as Episcopal Vicar.

New Business:

It was brought to the council's attention that parishioners would like to know the discussions and approvals made by the parish council; could the minutes of meetings be released? Council recommended the idea and approved posting council minutes to parish website with paper copies made available at both churches.

VI. Next Meeting: 13 January 2020, 6:00pm St. Gabriel Church Hall

VII. Scripture Reading: Mark Caron

VIII. Closing Prayer: Deacon Carl Lickwar

IX. Adjournment: Pete Arsenault, 7:32pm.

Elected Council Members	Attend	Committee Affiliation	Phone #	e-mail
Peter Arsenault - President	Y	Building & Grounds	860-961-4528	petearsenault@sbcglobal.net
Mark Caron -Vice President	Y	Evangelization	860-688-7177	MB_Caron@att.net
Vicky Ascherman - Secretary	Y	Liturgy	860-918-5900	Vickyacherman@me.com
Marie Dixon	Y	Liturgy	860-688-1271	MLDXon27@gmail.com
Ellen Messina	Y	Social Action	860-214-3097	e.messina@comcast.net
Paul Pagenkopp	N	Building & Grounds	714-719-9217	Paulsfact@gmail.com
Anne Marie Nasuta	Y		860-219-1621	Amsmith465@gmail.com
Jackie Reardon	Y	Building & Grounds	860-930-9110	Jacquelinreardon@sbcglobal.net
Bill Schoner	Y	Building & Grounds	832-443-0216	whswindsor@aol.com
Michael Stewart	Y	Evangelization	860-305-3047	stewartequineclinic@yahoo.com
Stephen Van GasBeck	Y	Buildings & Grounds	860-798-4304	Stir288@comcast.net
Michael Volpe	Y	Liturgy	860-729-0643	michaeltvolpe@comcast.net
Jim Welsh	Y	Social Action	860-830-9657	Jpwelsh58@gmail.com
Ex Officio Members				
Reverend John Melnick: Pastor	Y		860-688-4905	fr.melnick@aohct.org
Deacon Carl Lickwar	Y		860-528-2544	robertclickwar@aol.com
Deacon Al Cala	N		860-	albcala88@gmail.com
Lay Trustees				
Stan Kulas	Y	Liturgy	860-573-2411	Skuls0919@aol.com
Mary Lou Peters	Y		860-688-3993	mlpeters@icloud.com
Non-elected Members				
Cyndie Glick: Religious Ed.	Y		860-683-0366	reled@windsoratholic.org
Karla Neville – Principal	Y		860-989-8776	kneville@stgabrielschool.org

