



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
Monday, April 6, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

**Conference call Number: (202) 532-0123, then dial the conference
Number 1824#, followed by the pin 627#**

AGENDA

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: Monsignor Tolentino, Father Santiago Martin, Deacon Curtis Rodney, Lisa Taylor, Edwin Mendez, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, Helder Hernandez, Anna Smith, Esnath Mtonga, Maricela Tobar, Cristina Sian, John Webster, Father Santiago, Deacon Curtis, Michelle Websters, Cindy Mendez.

Absent: Dhel Friolo, Rene Holder, Jason G.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Lisa Taylor 7:07 p.m.

II. Opening Prayer/Reflection

Msgr. Tolentino

Hebrews 10:19-35

Monsignor chose this reading which is from the office of readings of today. This reading speaks of love, good works, encouraging one another. Many of us are missing the assembly. Many things are not the way they used to be. It does not mean that they are ending. By prayer we are united. Monsignor is very excited to share this word with us. He seemed so many examples of precisely that. Monsignor thanks everyone for each witness, and then asked each one to share how they are doing. Everyone continued and share their reflections. At the end, Monsignor thanks everyone for sharing their stories, and went ahead commenting about a letter that he received from Archbishop Gregory.

Lisa went ahead and read the email that Renee sent which reads: My two main points I am reflecting on in these times is the importance of the parish being a community of communities and through these smaller communities, I have been able to learn of people's needs where I could offer help either in terms of calling them, praying for their needs, making grocery runs or preparing meals. Secondly, in light of all the guidelines, I

feel called to walk with both reason and faith. Reason to follow all the CDC and county guidelines as best as I could to limit the spreading of the virus and faith to know that I am called to be another Christ in this generation and not to be paralyzed by a fear of death.

III. Approval of the December Minutes

Lisa Taylor

Anna Smith first
Eliamelisa seconded

IV. Approval of Agenda

Lisa Taylor

Ana Smith first
John Webster seconded

V. Leading the Parish During COVID-19

Msgr. Tolentino

Monsignor said he has been speaking to Father Santiago, Scot and Damien to see if it will be possible to celebrate the Triduum via facebook and youtube. It would only be Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Monsignor continued saying that we have a small staff. He wrote letters for staff saying that the staff is essential so they can continue working at the rectory. Then it comes the challenge of payroll. But we received information today from the Pastoral Center. This Friday, we will apply for a loan for payroll. Mary Lou Carta bequest came and it is a fairly good amount. We are asking people to enroll in Faith Direct during this time, and envelopes. Monsignor gives the idea to have Parish Council sign a letter to ask people to give anything that they can in the offertory. \$7 thousand dollars were deposited last week in the bank. Montgomery County has approved the Public Health Emergency Grant (PHEG) program, which will provide \$20 million to help area small businesses and non-profits; churches are eligible. The link to information regarding the grant is <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/biz-resources/pheg/>. The application is not ready yet but will be early next week; I would highly recommend getting the required documents together so that we can apply for this grant to help St. Michael's with some of the income lost in the last few weeks.

Future of the parish? We have minutes of December meetings. We then ask, what is relevant right now. We were progressing with the Catholic Social Teaching.

Now, he asks to think about, giving what our mission is, what is it that we can do to do works of charity to the people. Food Pantry or send people to Catholic Charities?

Recommendation – Form a phone tree, and have PC members to help call parishioners, and make sure we have a way to get the parishioners lists to people who make phone calls. Then we can make a script. Cindy mentioned that Deacon Ealey sent a script that the archdiocese sent that we can use when calling parishioners. Everyone has approved.
Esnath – first
Eliamelisa – seconded

Esnath have been working with religious education by sending emails they received from the Office for Catechesis of the Archdiocese and they are sending them to students.

Father Santiago and Helder to make sure all the Religious Education Spanish program is getting this. This would need to come from Benjamin. Send these emails to all catechists.

Eliamelisa asked if there is any way for us to reach out to some parishioners who we may think they might need help. Monsignor said that Cindy Mendez has the list and we can make this work. I had initially contacted Nicole to see if there is a list of parishioners who may be homebound or need assistance since our parishioners should be our number 1 priority. Nicole referred me to Cindy. Cindy then referred me to Deacon Ealey who referred me back to Cindy and then to Andy Russell. I contacted Andy and have not gotten a response. Deacon also mentioned contacting Victor, which I have not yet done. I also emailed Helder who mentioned that several individuals he was considering are already getting some help, which is good. Overall this has been a bit of a frustrating process, but I would be very interested to find out who from St. Michael's needs help in terms of food so that we can begin to deliver to them as soon as possible.

Confirmation and First Communions will happen but now.

Lisa Taylor said that the parishioners need to see the priests...Monsignor commented we need to find people to help and make this happen.

Unanimously everyone agreed on helping to continue to have the LIVE Mass during the Covid-19 Pandemia. Edwin, Lisa, Eliamelisa volunteered to help. Cindy said she can help during the week. It was also mentioned that Danielle can help.

Lisa Taylor – What else? People who are hungry, food, lost jobs. The Ministry for the Poor is facilitating the delivery of meals from Shepherd's Table and area restaurants as well as home-cooked meals from volunteers. If you would like to help, there are several ways to contribute your time. Please send me any names of individuals you know who need help in terms of meals. You can also volunteer to cook 1 or 2 dishes (each serving 5 – 6 people) once every 2 weeks. Finally you can also volunteer to help deliver the food. We deliver on Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's. Some individuals also cook and deliver on Sunday's. I can send the signup lists out to everyone if interested.

Michelle Webster – Jason sent a recording that talks about what the county is doing. Touch base with Jason.

Lisa Taylor – How do we feed people, that are unemployed, undocumented. Please see comments above.

Monsignor Tolentino – Everything that has been said is known to every single one of us. We have one issue only. What are we proposing to do. We can talk about the hardships, but what are we going to do? Please see comments above.

Helder Hernandez – What about the idea to bring non-perishable items to the rectory.

Cindy - Some parishioners have brought items. Teresa Villanueva from Catholic Charities picked it up. A great idea would be to create a list with items needed, and have them drop food at Catholic Charities. Send an email blast with this information.

Monsignor Tolentino – Send them to Catholic Charities or other organizations.

To be honest, I do not recommend sending food to Catholic Charities at this time. There are several members of our community who have lost jobs or are otherwise homebound, which has cast them into very dire circumstances. I believe should be collecting donations of non-perishables to deliver to these individuals and families; I can facilitate this through what we are already doing. The issue with giving our donations to Catholic

Charities is that most of the people we are serving have no way to get there due to the fact that they do not have money for gas or taking the Metro; even if they had money for the Metro, Maryland and DC have recommended that only essential workers ride the Metro due to the virus. If we keep the food here we can immediately get it to those who desperately need it without them risking their lives or using what little money they have.

VI. Report from the Finance Council

John Webster

Total expenses for the month of February is: \$83,508.00.

Total income for the month of February is: \$69,069.00.

Net income/loss: -\$14,439.00

John Webster will be calling Monsignor to talk about bequest and loan to help with payroll.

Monsignor want to add this – Chair of PC and FC prepare a letter to parishioners explaining what our financial situation is, and asking them for their generosity. Would like to publish this by Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Christina Sian – Can we send people food to their home? Please see comments above. Monsignor said can we ask, is there anything that we can do for parishioners?

VII. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

a. Celebrating the Lent and Easter Season – Via facebook and youtube.

b. Payment for the retreat – Make a payment to John W. for retreat in case a member still has not submitted their payment.

c. Continuing the work of the 2020 Parish Council Retreat – If you still have letters for confirmation students, bring them to Lisa.

d. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

a. May 4, 2020

b. June 1, 2020

Lisa: We might have a July and August meeting.

Christina Sian gave idea to make a prayer within a group of 10.

VIII. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

Father Santiago - Could we send an information letter, for days and times signed by the Pastor? Monsignor replied that instead of this we will be making phone calls.

IX. New Business

Lisa Taylor

Monsignor says: Thank you.

X. Closing Prayer

Father Santiago

Next Meeting: May 4, 2020

***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.*