

St. Damien of Molokai Parish Council
10 October 2022, 6:00pm St. Gabriel Church Hall
Council Minutes

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Peter Arsenault, President
- b. Father Melnick led Parish Council in opening prayer

II. Scripture Reading – Janet Pieper

III. Attendance & Ministry Affiliation – Jackie Reardon, Secretary (see attached list)

IV. New Business

- a. Review and acceptance of council minutes – a motion to approve the May 2022 council minutes was made by Vicky Ascherman.
- b. The motion was seconded by Stephen VanGasbeck and passed with no objections.

V. Parish Council Election: Jim Welsh

There are currently 10 members on the Council; the By-Laws allow 13. The vacant seats may be filled during the present term.

Jim made a motion that the 10 current members stay on through the coming year. The Motion was seconded by Vicky Ascherman and passed with no objection.

A motion was then made by Vicky Ascherman to keep the three officers (Pete Arsenault, President; Stephen VanGasbeck, Vice President; and Jackie Reardon, Secretary). The motion was seconded by Jim Welsh and passed with no objections.

VI. Pastor's Report: Father Melnick

1. The sale of St. Gertrude's Church is still in limbo.
2. Attendance at the 5:15pm Saturday Mass at St. Joseph's Church is less than 100 people. With a new Pastor arriving, Mass times may be examined. (Mass attendance still has not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels).
3. There are presently 136 children attending St. Gabriel School. The number should be 160-167 to balance the school budget. 27 children have moved out of the district, so, this in part is to blame for the decreased attendance. To help with costs, the janitor and bookkeeper were changed to part-time employees, so they do not qualify for benefits.
4. The Archdiocese is sending in a marketing firm to help spread the word about St. Gabriel School. The school also had a marketing consultant of their own this past summer.
5. Father Daly is bringing his secretary from Newington with him to St. Damien's. Martha Erickson's last day of work at St. Damien's will be October 18th.
6. Pete Arsenault then spoke of Father Melnick's numerous accomplishments, during his six-year tenure, at St. Damien's. The Parish Council thanked Father Melnick for his leadership and service.

VII. Standing Committees

Catholic Grandparents Association: Maureen Yuscavitch

1. The Catholic Grandparent's Association is an organization with chapters in 60 countries.
2. The World Day for Grandparents is observed in July. It is the goal of Maureen to have a vibrant chapter of the Catholic Grandparent's Association at St. Damien's.

3. Maureen has received, and will continue to receive, information on forming a chapter at St. Damien's. She plans to speak at Masses to spread the word to all Grandparent's at St. Damien's about the organization, and encourage their involvement.

Liturgy Committee: Stan Kulas

1. RCIA: There are currently 4 candidates, although only one is eligible.
2. Do You Believe: This series, led by Deacon Carl, will run from 10/12/22 – 11/16/22, at 10:00am, at St. Joseph's Church.
3. Bible Study: Led by parishioner Diane Caron, at 6pm St. Gabriel Hall, from 10/11/22 – 11/15/22. Chapters 5-7 of the Gospel of St. Matthew will be being discussed.
4. Adoration Chapel: A dinner will be held on October 14th at St. Joseph Church Hall, for adorers, and for those interested in learning more about Adoration and the chapel. More adorers, especially Eucharistic Ministers, are needed.
5. Blessing of the Animals: The blessing was held, indoors, on October 11th.
6. Rosary Rally: The annual rosary rally will be held on Saturday, October 15th, on the steps of St. Joseph's Church.
7. Remembrance Mass: The Mass is being held on Sunday, October 30th, at 2:00pm, at St. Gabriel's Church. This Mass will be live streamed.
8. Lentent Retreat: A retreat will be held March 27, 2023, through March 29, 2023. Donna O'Boyle will lead the Retreat.

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Peter Arsenault

1. There was previous water damage in the choir loft at St. Gabriel church. Plaster repairs were made, and we will monitor the ceiling. More extensive repairs may be needed in the future.
2. Flagpole area at St. Gabriel Church was updated.
3. The Knights of Columbus helped with a clean-up at St. Gabriel School prior to the start of the school year.
4. An area of the St. Gabriel Church parking lot needs a few small trees/bushes removed, to protect the new Grotto. The statue of Mary will be moved to the Grotto in the near term.
5. The ceiling lighting at St. Joseph's Church needs an upgrade to LED bulbs. Electrician and Jim Nasuta are working the issue.
6. Security cameras have been installed at both church entrances and sensitive areas.
7. The O'Neil family donated money to replace the tree that came down in a storm in August 2020.

Evangelization Committee: Janet Pieper and Jackie Reardon

1. 17 new families have registered with our Parish since May 2022; Since July of 2020, 98 families have been welcomed.
2. 360 parishioners/guests were fed at the annual St. Damien of Molokai Picnic.
3. Health and Wellness and Caregiver Ministry had a good turnout at the Sunday, May 15th, presentation on hearing loss. The next presentation is Thursday, October 13, 2022, on dementia—Pamela Atwood, from Atwood Dementia Group, is the speaker.
4. The surveys conducted in the spring revealed that the three topics parishioners were most interested in were dementia, nutrition, and caregiver support. At the ministry meeting held on October 6th, members discussed having a Health Fair October 2023, and a presentation for parents with children/pre-teens/teens on internet safety and other related topics.

Social Action Committee: Jim Welsh/Annemarie Nasuta/Donna Chapman

1. The next Parish dinner will be held on November 5th, at St. Gabriel Church Hall, following the 4:00pm Mass. The theme is "tailgating." WILA will be the beneficiary of donations.

2. The Social Action Committee will be providing light refreshments at the October 13th presentation on dementia.
3. Weekend Wheels (meals for families over the weekend) will be held on 10/29 & 10/30 and 11/5 & 11/6.
4. A Pet Pantry collection will be held in February 2023.
5. The Giving Tree will be set up again this year (approval from Father Daly needed).
6. Food Collections will resume in January 2023.
7. Parishioners participated in the Habitat for Humanity construction date on August 13th. The next dates will be October 16th and 22nd and November 19th.

St. Gabriel School: Karla Neville – Principal

1. Re-wiring is being done at the school due to a lightning strike.
2. The awarded NAA Grant will be used to work on the foyers connecting the two school buildings.
3. The Hoffman Grant ideally would be used towards a new school roof, but more funds are needed for that project.
4. A Jazz Night is being planned.
5. The drainage issue in the school rear parking area has not been repaired yet.
6. A Seraphim Walk was held for a fundraiser.
7. The Bids for Kids auction is being held on November 5th. Note: this conflicts with our parish dinner.
8. An Open House is being held on Election Day (November 8th), as public schools are closed that day.

Faith Formation: Cyndie Glick-Coordinator

1. Follow up (via email and phone calls) was done with six (6) 2021 families that did not register for Faith Formation (as well as families from 2019 and 2020).
2. The Confirmation Rite of Enrollment was held at the 4:00pm Mass at St. Gabriel Church on September 10th. 19 students attended.
3. K-8th Grade Faith Formation Classes began on September 25th.
4. C1 and C2 Confirmation classes began.
5. C1 and C2 students baked dog treats for the Pet Blessing.
6. A student & family Mass was held at St. Gabriel Church in October. Members of the 8th grade class served as Lectors. A second student and family Mass will be held on November 6th at St. Gabriel Church—7th grade students will serve as Lectors.
7. A Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation was held on October 9th.
8. On October 30th, the 5th Grade Presentations on Saints will be held at 9:30am at St. Gabriel School.
9. The Thanksgiving Turkey & Food Drive will be held on November 19th at St. Joseph Church from 9:00am to 12:00pm.
10. The Advent Kick-off will be held at St. Gabriel Church on November 27th.

Knights of Columbus: Stephen VanGasbeck

1. The Knights assisted with a clean-up at St. Gabriel School.
 2. The Knights helped with set up/take down, and other tasks, at the Parish Picnic.
 3. The clean-up at St. Joseph's Cemetery will be on-going throughout the changing seasons.
 4. The Knights will again be conducting the Silver Rose Ceremony.
- VIII Next Meeting: St. Gabriel Church Hall, 6:00pm 14 November 2022.
- IX Scripture Reading: Vicky Ascherman
- X Closing Prayer: led by Pete Arsenault.
- Adjournment: made by Pete Arsenault.

Elected Council Members	Present	Committee Affiliation	Phone #	e-mail
Peter Arsenault, President	Y	Building & Grounds	860-961-4528	petearsenault@sbcglobal.net
Stephen VanGasbeck Vice President	Y	Building & Grounds	860-798-43-4	Stirz88@comcast.net
Jackie Reardon, Secretary	Y	Building & Grounds	860-930-9110	Jacquelinreardon@sbcglobl.net
Alphonsus Aguh	N		413-626-8331	Aguh2000@yahoo.com
Annemarie Nasuta	Y	Evangelization	860-202-3512	amsmith465@gmail.com
Vicky Ascherman	Y	Liturgy	860-918-5900	vickyascherman@me.com
Donna Chapman	Y	Evangelization	860-597-8936	donnachapmanJHL@gmail.com
Jim Welsh	Y	Social Action	860-830-9657	Jpwelsh58@gmail.com
Janet Pieper	Y	Evangelization	860-558-5174	Jpieper96@aol.com
Agnes Pier	N	Liturgy	860-335-4235	ampier@sbcglobal.net
Ex-Officio Members				
Rev. Shawn Daly, Pastor	Y		860-688-4905	
Deacon Carl Lickwar	Y		860-528-2544	robertclickwar@aol.com
Deacon Al Cala	N		860-	
Lay Trustees				
Stan Kulas	Y	Liturgy	860-573-2411	Stanley.kulas0919@gmail.com
Ann Hickey	Y		860-688-4680	Amh818@sbcglobal.net
Non-elected Members				
Cyndie Glick, Religious Ed.	Y		860-683-0366	reled@windsorcatholic.org
Karla Neville, St. Gabriel School Principal	Y		860-989-8776	kneville@stgabrielschool.org
Guests				