

# ST LEO PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 22, 2024

**Members Present In-Person:** Sr Pat Michalek, Emily Ignacio, Sarah Templin, Heather Paez, Vern Harkins, Tom Trunk, John Landy, Allison Scanlin, Eugena Buena-Douglas and Father Michael Rademacher.

**Members Present Virtually:**

**Members Excused:** Deacon Tom O'Loughlin

**Members Absent:** Mike Bianchi,

**Guest Present:** Kevin Lovejoy

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The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

The meeting opened with the land acknowledgment, "We gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Twulshootseed language."

The opening prayer was a group recitation of the "Sucipe", modified, led by Sr. Pat.

## 1. **Topic: Parish Events, Sarah**

**November 9-10: Feast of St. Leo:** Following Mass hot cider and cookies will be served in the Hospitality area on Saturday and in the Bix on Sunday, with assistance from Council volunteers.

**November 13: Evening of Remembrance of All Souls:** A touching service, in the St. Leo tradition, will take place in the church for all parishioners, with special invitations sent to all parishioners who have had loved ones pass away in the past year.

**November 16: Meet and Greet with Fr. Michael:** This will follow 5:00 pm Mass in the Bix and will provide an additional opportunity for all parishioners to meet Fr. Michael and engage in conversation with him about our hopes and aspirations for the parish and to ask him any questions we may have. A potluck will be part of the gathering.

**November 23-24: 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of St. Leo the Great Parish:** Plans are being made for recognition of this historic event following Masses that weekend.

**Upcoming Happenings:** The Council discussed questions the parish must resolve regarding the use of Worship Aids moving forward. The challenges presented deal with renewal of license fees for publication of music, the availability of anyone with the

ability and skill needed to format the music, and the ecological issues with the cost and use of paper. The council and Fr. Michael unanimously recognize the importance of music in our liturgies. The goal is to continue to prioritize the importance of music in the liturgy with full and active participation of the community in song. Fr. Michael will be consulting with the Liturgy Commission and Jina on all potential options to respond to these issues on behalf of the parish.

Fr. Michael and Sr. Pat led a discussion of upcoming changes in the diocese pursuant to the Archbishop's direction. The archbishop sent a directive to all parishes in 2020 at the beginning of covid, that there should be uniformity in the diocese of posture during the Eucharistic Prayer. He wants all parishes to use the common posture of kneeling during the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Communion Rite, in keeping with the General Instruction of the Roman Missal as is widespread throughout the United States. This practice will begin at St. Leo this Advent. Those with physical needs that prevent kneeling or those who won't have access to kneelers at St. Leo will be encouraged to sit. In addition, all parishes are being asked to utilize vessels made of precious metals made of gold or silver for holding the consecrated bread and wine for communion. The acquisition of these for use at St. Leo will come from benefactors.

The council encouraged clear education to all parishioners on the reasons behind these changes, both in written form and at the pulpit. This will happen during November prior to Advent.

**Decision/Action: Parish Staff, Father Michael and parish council for planning and implementation**

**Responsibility for Follow-up: Parish Staff, Father Michael and parish council**

## **2. Topic: Parish Commission Reports:**

### **Summary of Discussion:**

**Faith Formation For Children:** Abby Diaz, a St Charles parishioner, has been hired for K-12 Faith Formation. Children's faith formation classes have begun. First Communion preparation classes are underway. Youth altar servers are coming from Catholic schools for Tuesday daily Masses and will begin serving at Sunday liturgies once or twice a month.

**Faith Formation For Adults:** Adult Initiation Ministry, AIM, formerly RCIA, has scheduled the Rite of Welcoming for November 3. Fifteen people are enrolled in this year's program and many others are expressing interest. SEEL (Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life) is off to a great start this year with 20 in person and 56 total participants in the Seattle Tacoma area. The current program is hybrid with an in-person program for those who want that and zoom for those living too far away. All parishioners are encouraged to participate in spiritual enrichment programs offered through SEEL and the Ignatian Spirituality Center with information provided in the bulletin. The group's working on defining their mission/goals and will be responding to the Parish Council.

**Food Connection:** "Make the Connection Breakfast" their primary annual fundraiser, is being scheduled for either February 25 or 26. A guest speaker is being sought. The "Day of the Dead" Parish Event for Children is on November 3 and will involve cookie decorating. On November 22, the day before Thanksgiving, the Food Connection will be open at 10:00 AM. The commission, in partnership with JVE, will provide hospitality, including coffee, hot chocolate and donuts for all guests as they wait in line to enter the Food Bank. They will serve guests between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Commission members will be invited to sign up to participate. Commission members are also being encouraged to participate in the Ignatian Spirituality Center's Pathway to Prayer series hosted at Bellarmine. Local Catholic schools are beginning to conduct food collection events to benefit the Food Connection.

Two \$85,000 two-year cycle grants have been submitted to the City of Tacoma, in addition an \$80,000 request has been submitted to United Way and the City of Lakewood. The commission is anxious to see the 2024-25 budget, which has not yet been made available. This information is needed so they can assist Dawn in keeping track of actual versus budgeted expenses. They are also anxious to know if a Development position has been included in this year's budget as was requested, and whether salaries have been increased, especially for leadership positions. Jill McEntee from St. Charles has been welcomed as a new commission member.

**Kateri Circle:** The Kateri Circle is working through the process of filling officer positions and plans to address that in November. There will be a Mass presided over by Bishop Schuster on October 26 at St. James Cathedral to honor St. Kateri. All parishioners are invited to attend. Attendance will show the archdiocese that there are Native American Catholics active at St. Leo Parish. Kateri prayer cards will be passed out after Mass. The group is also strategizing on how to build renewed camaraderie within the Circle and with St. Leo Parish in the aftermath of the departure of Father Pat, as well as with the changes coming about through Partners in the Gospel.

**Liturgy:** The commission is meeting on October 23, so no minutes were available for review.

**Pastoral Care:** Adriana has asked the commission to review and update their Vision/Mission statement. The group felt the current wording was fairly generalized and could be fine-tuned with more specific language together with a more inclusive list of their ministries. Further discussion will take place at their next meeting. Abby Diaz has been hired to help with K-12 Faith Formation. Abby is a bilingual St. Charles parishioner. Faith formation classes began on October 6. Lynda Sandschulte, a staff member from St. Charles, will be joining Deacon Tom for wedding arrangement needs. They will serve St. Charles in his capacity as well. Emily Ignacio has been saying the rosary prior to weekday and Saturday mass. All are invited to join her. Father Marc and Sr. Chris are offering spiritual direction in Father Marc's office. After three years of financial assistance, the parish is stepping back from the Afghan family project from a financial standpoint. The family has been supported in many ways over the last three years, and the parish will remain available to assist the family further if needs arise. Two ministers have been arranged to visit two new homebound parishioners. The parish Prayer Line has been revived and contact information is in the bulletin. A new ministry of "Caring for the Caregiver" is being organized. The first meeting is scheduled for October 30 between 1:00 and 3:00 PM in the Bix. A community outreach and education specialist from Pierce County will be speaking that day. Recurring meetings are planned for the last Wednesday of each month, except December. Lois East, I St. Leo parishioner is involved with the Mental Health and Wellness Ministry at St. Charles. She is inviting anyone at St. Leo who may be interested in participating in this ministry to attend. There will be a mental health first aid training workshop at St. Charles on Saturday, November

16 from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM provided by the Pierce County Health Department. Interest continues on updating our parish directory. This remains in the planning stage.

**Facilities:** No minutes were submitted. No report was provided.

**Closing Prayer.** A closing prayer was offered with reflections by council members.

**Next Meeting: Date: November 26, 2024, 6:30 PM**

At Father Michael's request, due to the number of meetings he must attend at both St. Leo and St. Charles, in November our St. Leo council will begin having Pastoral Council meetings only on the odd numbered months, and the St. Charles council will meet on the even numbered months.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Vern Harkins, Secretary