



Leadership Committee

REVITALIZING OUR PARISH

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Leadership Committee

Father Shelton requested the different parish and ministry leaders and anyone they recommended come together and form a plan to help bring enthusiasm and life back into our parish. We all care deeply about our parish and have many ideas on where there can be improvements. We formed a steering group to help coordinate these ideas into a coherent plan. The steering group determined that all of the ideas mentioned fell within four areas of focus.

- Hospitality
- Communication
- Social
- Sunday Experience

No specific ministry falls into just one of these areas, which allows for overlap of responsibility.

AND IT BEGINS...

We understand that any meaningful plan is going to take years to have a sustainable outcome. However, we asked the four focus groups to come up with items that would be low effort but will have a high impact for our parish. We call these quick wins. The next few pages will contain our quick wins for these focus areas. We respectfully request any questions, comments, concerns, complaints and more importantly, your approval of these tasks. This is only the beginning.

Sunday Experience

People are out there searching for faith and fellowship. Let us bring them here. Wonderful things are happening at St. Mary's Parish but we need our parish and community to see it. We have belief and we have faith. Let us teach others how Jesus fills us here. As a family, we need to gather socially and spiritually. Mass is the most important part of our Sunday experience and to help that experience be all that it can be we propose the following. (In no particular order)

Ushers needs:

- Head usher per Mass
- More ushers per Mass
- Usher Identification - badges
- Ushers need to assign a family to bring gifts forward at each Sunday Mass.
- Clean up pews after Masses

Welcoming needs:

A ministry leader, at all Sunday Masses, will address parishioners for approx. 1-2 min. with...

- A welcome to St. Mary's Parish message. (wording changed as needed)
- Welcome any visitors or anyone new to the parish.
- Announcements
- Ask people to greet those around you

At the end of Mass (before the final blessing) the celebrant will give blessing to..

- Families moving away from our parish
- Families new to our parish - Welcome packets with parish info – perhaps Crusader dolls for new children.
- Marriage Anniversary 5, 10, 15, 20, 25...
- Once a year blessing for Readers, Servers, Choir, Extra Ordinary Ministers...

Info Table before / after Sunday Masses

- Sign up to promote your parish group/ministry/activity
- Greet parishioners with your information
- Only the ministry/group/activity coordinator assigned my display their information with other information available if requested.

Young Adult Program

- Need Leader/Coordinator
- More young adults staying home for 2 years of college due to availability of scholarship money for Community colleges. We need to offer ways to keep them growing in their faith, engaged in our community, and becoming leaders for the Church.

Young Families – We need to attract young families to St. Mary’s

- Offer children’s page at the Sunday Masses. Children Missal?
- Catechesis / Social with child care
- Family focused playgroups.

Youth

Youth in middle school and high school need larger roles in Masses and other Liturgies. A liturgy leader needs to consistently visit High School and Jr. High Youth Ministry, CCD and SMS. Also, more activities at Fall Festival and other parish functions. Possible roles for youth are:

- Readers
- Servers
- Ushers
- Sacristan
- Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers (at the appropriate age)

Mass Times

Possibility of changing our Sunday Mass schedule from **8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, and 2pm** to **8 am, 11 am and 2 pm**. This reduction in the number of Masses would allow planning a once a month Sunday evening for Mass and fellowship for youth, other parish groups, or for special liturgical seasons.

This would also be a great opportunity for spiritual and social planning for all parish needs but most especially our young families. It is a great time for Whole Family Catechesis, Something planned for children with their parents or give parents a chance to attend adult formation as well as planning family fellowship gatherings.

Communications

We determined that the Communications group initial course of action should be to identify all the ministries within our parish, update the contact information for each ministry, obtain descriptive and relevant information about each ministry, and make information about all ministries known to our parishioners in several ways:

- Include a directory of ministries with descriptive & updated contact information on our parish website.
 - We have created a list of known ministries with contact information.
 - Critical personnel have been asked to update and correct the list
 - Father Shelton as authorized contacting key members of all ministries for this purpose.
 - Sunday Experience group can jumpstart this by announcing the need to identify all ministries prior to Mass.
 - We are developing a reporting form. We will send this form to all ministries for the purpose of creating directories and developing a page on our parish website.
 - Pictures would be included on web page
 - Explore the options and practicality of developing pages off our parish website including cost and security issues.
 - We invited Lupe Mayorga to join as a liaison to our Hispanic members.
 - We will contact Pedro Palacio to provide information about current ministries and contacts for the Hispanic members of our parish.
- Develop a dedicated page in our weekly bulletin that will highlight parish organizations, ministries and events each week. We will possibly utilize a newsletter offered by Diocesan Publishing.
 - Event calendar could be included in our bulletin on a weekly or monthly schedule.
- We have the opportunity to use a free 6-year myParish App. Cyndi Panter is finalizing this contract with Diocesan Publications.
 - Works with both Apple and Android devices
 - All communication in one place and available to all.
 - Pictures
 - Brochures
 - Booklets
 - We can create banners for events for \$50 a banner.
- Calendar of Events
 - Posted in the bulletin
 - Need electronic format – Google and/or ICS
 - Need ability for non-staff to keep event calendar current.
 - Calendar on website
 - myParish app access to calendar of events.

- Hardcopies of directory, calendar and so on will need to be available for anyone without access or interest in technology.
- For future considerations or long term projects
 - LED, TV, or projection displays at front of church
 - Song lyrics
 - Readings
 - Homily points
 - Announcements (prior to or following Mass)
 - Concerns/Cons:
 - Ambient light
 - Depth of church/visibility
 - Focus on monitors instead of Mass
 - Cost
 - George Golightly could install
 - Pros:
 - Benefit to those unfamiliar with order of liturgy
 - Newcomers
 - Visitors
 - Non-Catholics
 - Appeal to youth
 - Instead of facing down, congregation will be looking up
 - Communicate/invite/inform using social media for events
 - Facebook
 - Twitter

The communications group is concerned with ensuring that everyone in our parish has access to information & that the information is relevant & current. Making information about the efforts of ministries in our parish may be an incentive for others to become involved. Making information about events available in a timely fashion may be an inducement for participation. We are exploring the kinds of information that needs to be more widely shared & the most effective means to share information, using multiple instruments so that everyone has access to information without being overwhelmed.

Social

We are social creatures. As such, fellowship is a big part of our faith. Here is our first step.

Meet and Mingle

Monthly event for couples, singles and families. The focus is on young adults, which are the future of our parish.

- To be held 4th Saturday of each month following 5:30 pm Mass – 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
- Childcare program will be available free of charge – This is also a ministry for children and not just day care.
- First two events will be cookouts. Serving of alcohol is under review.
- First event is Saturday August 26th
- Second event is Saturday September 23rd.

These “quick wins” will have the most impact to our parish. We will undergo more in depth tasks or projects as time passes. We are using the different project planning and tracking methods available to us – Excel and Trello are two examples – to help keep track of the different events and to have reportable outcomes.