

Questions from the Virtual Assembly Answered:

1. When is St. Joseph planning to use the Church Alive funds specifically to enhance (expand!) the church entrance? This would be so helpful to have done before winter. And it might be best to do this while attendance is low due to COVID?

Response: The original Case Statement for the use of Church Alive funds at St. Joseph did contain a project for the expansion of the church entrance. However, this particular project is well beyond the scope of the funds we felt would be needed. We have petitioned the diocese for a revision of our Case Statement to direct the funds to other necessary maintenance projects.

2. Both St. Joseph and St. John have money from Church Alive designated to Youth programs. One of the Needs on the list of Needs (for volunteers) is for Youth/Young Adult Ministry. We currently have paid positions for Faith Formation up thru 8th Grade and then on the other end, we have Adult Faith Formation. Why will we not hire someone to cover this important age gap in between (the HS and Young Adults)? This is the age range where their faith is being tested and challenged. Many leave the church during this time. We need to do more to retain, attract and educate those in this age bracket. Please consider hiring someone to devote their full time to these teens and young adults. This task is too big to lump in with the CFF and AFF ministries.

Response: The funds designated for the Youth programs will be used for programs once we have a direction with that. These funds were not intended to hire a person for the management of the Youth Program. The whole area of youth ministry is of great concern and will need to be addressed by the new administration for the new parish come January 2021 and beyond.

3. With the combining of staff duties, I understand that hours may need to be cut unless they can find enough to keep everyone busy. I think Communication is very important as we move forward. And I think it would help to have one person overseeing Communication as a whole.... Assisting to promote via different communication channels (mailings, flyers, bulletin, website, Facebook, other Social Media platforms, email, YouTube videos . . .) This really should be a paid position. To do it "right" would take up a great deal of time and is too much to expect for someone to volunteer. This is not necessarily the same person who would put the bulletin together as that is time consuming in and of itself and requires different targeted computer skills.

Response: Our intention is to have a communication person for the new parish. At present this person will likely be a paid member of the present staff. This area can be expanded once the new administration is organized. There are some positions that will take time to completely function as we might like. We must remember this is a new venture for all of us and how things can or will be managed is a work in progress.

4. What happens to On Mission funds that are left over after the case statement projects are completed? Does a new case statement project need to be defined?

Response: Currently, the monies remain earmarked for each case statement until such time a case statement for the new parish is formed. It is unlikely there will be any substantial funds left over.

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5. How will the new Parish councils be formed in January? Pastoral & Finance. With the new vision in mind there should be new members interested in moving forward this vision.
Response: Councils are in the process of being formed now and hopefully will be comprised of both veteran and new members.
6. We really liked the vision Fr Ward presented, how will it be implemented? We would like to see all committees and groups evaluate their work against the vision.
Response: The Vision for the new parish is a Vision formulated by the Advisory Council and initiated by Fr. Ward. It is a Vision that needs to be embraced by all as we move forward. The implementation of this Vision is the task for all parishioners and certainly a guide for all groups and committees as we endeavor to make the Church Alive.
7. What is the criteria for closing a church?
Response: This question is very premature. We are not at this time anticipating the closing of any of the churches in our grouping. If that should happen, we will follow the directives set forth by the diocese with full notification to the parishioners.
8. Will the Sunday collections be counted at the administrative center?
Response: Collections will be counted at each location.
9. Will CCD be held at one place this year?
Response: Children's Faith Formation will be held at both St. John's and St. Joseph's
10. Will all three parish offices maintain hours?
Response: All three offices will have designated office hours.
11. Will Mass intentions be scheduled at each parish or thru one venue?
Response: Masses intentions will be scheduled at each parish office.
12. Is there any chance of having a weekday evening Mass?
Response: An evening Mass is under consideration.
13. Are we going to hire a new Director of Music or choose from one of the three organists we have?
Response: We will hire a Director of Music. The position will be advertised and candidates will be interviewed. A selection will then be made.
14. Will we still have our individual fundraisers?
Response: Fundraisers will certainly be a part of our new parish. The schedule and type will be addressed by our Finance Councils.
15. We are missing "vibrant" in our Liturgies. What are we going to do about it?
Response: Alive. Healthy. Life-giving. Enthusiastic are all signs of a vibrant Liturgy with active participation of all. Our Worship Committee will discuss ways to individually and collectively improve our Liturgy and work toward this goal.