



Church of St. Mary Our Lady of the Lake

16 December 2019

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Mary's

We promised you a summary of the town hall meetings held in November.

The turnout was excellent, between the two meetings 96 people attended, and offered their thoughts, concerns and ideas about how together we might enhance our parish. We are in the process of addressing these and acting on them as best we can. We want to thank everyone for your enthusiasm and support during the Town Hall meetings.

From those of you able to attend the town halls we heard a desire to have more volunteers and leaders step forward to help the church progress. As we share with you the identified initiatives, we ask that you consider helping in whatever way you can, both large and small.

For those of you who were not able to attend and have thoughts you would like to share, **please call 547-2213 or email at pastor@stmaryscoop.org**. We look forward to your comments!

As many have inquired about how our parish organized, we have that information on the back of this page. Many have noticed an increase in enthusiasm and activity at our parish over the last few months. Indeed, this is heartwarming and encouraging. Our goal is to continue to build upon the many good things at our parish (see below) as we look forward to welcoming a new priest at some time in the future.

We wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Warmly, the St. Mary's Leadership Group

How Parishioners Responded to the Question About What They Like About St. Mary's

Social interaction with other parishioners	Responsiveness to requests
Door to the church is always open	Articulation and expression of Mass
Physical style of the church, reflective of earlier time	Thanksgiving Mass
Social events e.g. Glimmerglass Mass, Lenten Fish Fry	Small size, leads to closeness
Opening of the senior center	Eucharistic ministers
History – children grew up here, married here	Commitment to hospital patients
Food drives	Strong Catholic community
Church community interaction with Cooperstown	Compassion, caring one another
Community and other churches	

How St Mary's is Organized

In addition to the leader of the parish, either a parish priest or parish life coordinator, we have two main councils which have overall responsibility for parish activities. These are:

I. Pastoral Planning Council

Parish Leader – Karen Walker Trustees – Mike Millea and Peter Henrici

Chairman – Rob Bohm Members – TBD (**we'd love you to consider your role here**)

Please call 547-2213 or email at pastor@stmaryscoop.org

Recommendations from Town Halls:

Prayer and Worship: Reinvigorate bereavement program (led by G Smith), enhance music program, establish a liturgy committee, enhance reverence, respect for presence of God at Mass, increase mid-week services, assess prayer chain, expand Eucharistic ministry, announcements at end of Mass vs beginning, increase involvement of children at Mass, pray(ers) for a new priest.

Social Interaction, Parish Culture: More parish-wide activities, build upon welcoming culture, integrate new parishioners into culture, i.e. Mom's group, book club.

Youth, Young Adult Ministry: Consider recruitment of youth director, implement more youth activities, and acquaint youth with Catholic colleges, more qualified, certified instructors.

Outreach, Social Justice: Convert words of liturgy into real life, family social activities, organize social justice work, pursue ecumenism.

Faith Formation, Education: Strengthen youth and adult catechesis, adult education opportunities.

II. Finance Council

Parish Leader – Karen Walker Trustees – Mike Millea and Peter Henrici

Chairman – Vincent Russo Members – Sharon Oberriter, Don Dubois, Jim Howarth, Jeff Woepfel

Regular Business Functions: Financial mgmt, budget, vendor contracts, financial reporting, fund raisers, human resources, investment fund, mgmt of physical campus, communications

Recommendations from Town Halls: Accessible info station, Tripod for the Day's Special Announcement, more robust social media program, assess feasibility of ministry fair