



## Joint Parish Planning

*“Creating One New Parish for All”*

### **Spotlight on: The Naming Subcommittee**

One essential element for any new Parish is its name. The Joint Parish Councils formed the Naming Subcommittee to guide us through this process. Over the past few months all Parishioners have had an opportunity to participate. Here are the details on how this subcommittee led us to our selection of a new parish name.

#### **What is the mission of the Naming Subcommittee?**

Our mission was to develop a process that would result in the selection of a new parish name for submission to the Bishop for approval.

#### **What are the tasks, actions or goals of the Subcommittee?**

The subcommittee had three (3) primary goals. First, to develop a plan to choose an overarching name for our new Parish; second, to execute that plan; and finally, to submit the new Parish name to the Bishop for approval.

#### **What is the strategy for achieving these goals?**

Early on we decided that we would like to involve our entire Parish community across all Churches. We decided to split the selection of the name into various rounds. The first round would be an open call for any names to be suggested. In the second round we selected the top 5 suggested names and offered those as choices to be voted on. Finally, we tallied the results and came up with a clear top choice.

#### **What are the challenges and how are they being addressed?**

Our main challenge was determining the validity of any name proposed. We consulted the Pastors to develop the criteria.

#### **What is the status against achieving your goals and providing your recommendations to the Joint Parish Councils?**

The subcommittee has completed the process, the results have been tallied, and **Sacred Heart** is the name that will be submitted to the Bishop for approval.

*(The information provided in this article is current as of October 13, 2024.)*



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### Spotlight on: The Weekend Liturgy Subcommittee

Another subcommittee with an important and complex task is the Weekend Liturgy Subcommittee. Devising a schedule for weekend worship in multiple locations requires time and careful consideration of many factors. The following provides insight into the Weekend Liturgy Subcommittee and the approach they are utilizing to accomplish their goal.

#### **What is the mission of the Weekend Liturgy Subcommittee?**

The mission of the Weekend Liturgy subcommittee is to determine a suitable weekend mass schedule that best accommodates the faithful in Rome, Holland Patent and Lee Center.

#### **What are the tasks, actions or goals of the Subcommittee?**

To accomplish our mission we are deploying a team of no less than four (4) subcommittee members to attend each weekend mass at every location to determine potential attendance. To account for seasonal attendance fluctuations, the team will perform this task multiple times. We are also obtaining realistic seating capacities for normal Sunday Celebrations.

#### **What is the strategy for achieving these goals?**

Our team is using a methodical process to collect data from each mass at each church. We will use this data to make the best recommendation possible within the constraints we have been given. We are looking at seating capacity, miles between churches, and the travel time between churches to allow for coverage of the weekend schedule by one priest, if necessary. We are also taking into consideration the time needed for the priests and deacons before Mass and after Mass to handle activities such as: vesting, answering questions, and most importantly interacting with parishioners.

#### **What are the challenges and how are they being addressed?**

Overall, our team isn't facing any immediate challenges. We know our mission and goals, and we are extremely aware of the sensitivity of the Mass schedule and the impact to all the parishioners. Therefore, we will continue to work towards recommending the number of masses and locations that meet the needs of our Catholic community and what is reasonable for our priests to handle within the guidelines given to the team.

#### **What is the status against achieving your goals and providing your recommendations to the Joint Parish Councils?**

We will complete our first round of attending all the masses in the five (5) churches in late October. We have discussed doing attendance counts to account for seasonality, as it may have influenced the August numbers. The team is determining the next steps. We cannot currently commit to a draft but are completely aware of the timeline. We are also keeping much of our data and visits confidential, as we believe that this group's task has an enormous impact on all the parishioners and are aware of the personal impact all will have with our decisions.

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