

## October 6, 2018 Parish Gathering

38 participants including Council, Commissions and Staff

### **What's working?**

Friendly church – smiling faces – we care about each other—we build friendships

**The 9:30 Mass is working well** – it's easier for the ministers – we don't need to split the musicians

Young families with children – participating in the Listen to the Word. There appears to be a growing improvement in diversity

Diversification of our church – welcoming others

All the outreach that GS has --- many community outreach programs.

Deacon Sandy, Fr. Marty and Fr. Richard --- all the people that are working at the church and all the committees.

Enjoy the adult education formation and Spotlight programs – really well put together – takes a great deal of work. Wish we could do more outreach to get more to come. I would like to see get more people to come to these wonderful programs.

Affiliation with St. James, Sandy Sites, love singing at the confirmation with the St. James musicians.

The GOF program --- good for children to see that the older parishioners are learning, doing crafts, and being like children.

Proud that other faith communities recognize us as a Social Justice parish.

The way we celebrate the sacraments at Good Shepherd – the Baptisms, weddings, and the celebration of life Mass all give visitors a look at how we worship. We had a wedding that was so special that it brought our families together. We had a Celebration of Mass service that left everyone in tears and was very uplifting.

Corn Roast – Love it!

**Funeral Masses** are meaningful. Being known as the Social Justice Parish

Our Parish Team and the way they work together as a team on our behalf. Recognized by the Archdiocese as working well.

The GS in-reach programs as well as the outreach programs. Many outlets that are so rewarding. Cover a wide variety of interests.

The GS liturgies – the way the Word is spoken to us --- understandable proclaimers --- given the time to digest what was proclaimed rather than rushing off to the next thing.

**Appreciative that our parish is financially stable** so we don't have to worry where the next dollar is coming from.

Enjoy the men's group that meets monthly. A great couple of hours of study. All the talk and sharings stays in the room except the works.

Like this parish an awful lot. Asked if something happened to GS where I would go. I don't think I need a church building. I would not go to St. James or St. Mary's. I would have a tough time going somewhere else.

Went to 5 different churches when I moved to Men Falls...this was the only church where I felt the warmth.

Accepting of everyone. Accepts all the members of the Hartfel House. Hartfel House all know that they are accepted here

Like to have the readings on the screens. Could we do it for all Masses. (Need volunteers) Suggested a notice in the bulletin asking if the parishioners like the reading on the screen – if they would like to volunteer.

### **What are our opportunities?**

We have a good slush fund but we are overstaffed for the number of parishioners we have. Couldn't we find more volunteers?

- The number of ministries directly impact staff and vice-versa.
- Costs are looked at regularly
- Arch trusts GS to have a Parish Director because of our staff and programs. It was noted that to have a Pastor – the cost would be doubled.

Question if our outreach is going to the right groups --- political groups. (Specifically disagrees with donation to Voices e la Fonterra by Human Concerns)

- One of the few organizations that helps immigrants. Concerns have been voiced by others.
- Question if any one organization should be given a \$2000 contribution.
- 2 different statuses an organization can have – political vs. non-political.
- Did go on the website and clearly had a political bias.
- The group referred to teaches English to immigrants.
- Charter member loves church yet had some of the same concerns does not have the same concerns any longer.
- Volunteer with the organization believes the core mission is to help people.
- Voices shut down freeways and jobs. (Palermo's)

We should bring back the evening for lovers.

Like to have the readings on the screens. Some people have hearing problems. Could we do it for all Masses. (need volunteers) Suggested a notice in the bulletin that if the parishioners like the reading on the screen – if they would like to volunteer.

- If the youth ministry takes on the tech ministry – we would only have them for a year or two.
- Clarification that we are talking about only having the readings on the screen.

- Have we had a chance to talk with other churches about how they provide the visual during Masses.

Can't hear the prayers that are offered at the prayers of the faithful.

Cannot see the babies that are being baptized.

- Comment made that we don't need to have the eyes on the baby --- that it is our presence that is important.

The choices of songs are questionable at times. Not everyone knows the songs that are chosen.

When the usher comes around at Offertory time not much is put in the basket. Instead of a collection – could we instead invite anyone who wants to give to come to the altar to make their contribution.

### **Questions**

Have heard something about the Parish space discussion. Sandy addressed the donation that had been made and the status of the discussion. Many possibilities. Committee has been formed. Information will be made available to all parishioners.

Thoughts on the loose change challenge was a thumbs-up. (8 parishioners hands up)

### **Questions/Comments brought to George Koleas after the Gathering.**

#### **What's working?**

I would like to see small group meetings held in homes

I like the fellowship after Mass. Maybe we could have fellowship before Mass.

Everyone is very welcoming

#### **What are our opportunities?**

I thought we were not supposed to problem solve but just give our ideas.

What happened to answer the problems and questions from the survey? Was anything changed?

Music is driving away parishioners at the 4:30 mass.

Very mixed reviews of Sr. Joann at the funeral masses.

Now that former custodian is gone, the cleanliness of carpets, bathrooms, floor in Daniels Hall leaves much to be desired. As one walks in the front (Main) door, they see the terribly spotted and dirty carpet. This is disgusting and not a welcoming sight.