



MESSAGE FROM OUR SR. WARDEN (7.22.18):

Many thanks to all that participated in our inaugural Focus Groups! We appreciated all of your input, feedback and ideas. This information will enable us to better understand what is important to St. Mary's and accurately represent our parish to potential clergy candidates. We need to "paint a picture" of who we are as a congregation and community and share our vision for the future.

If you were unable to attend, we would still like to hear from you! Questions will be listed on whiteboards in the Parish Hall on an ongoing basis. We encourage you to write your thoughts on sticky notes and post them. Your input is important to us as we enter into this next chapter on our faith journey at St. Mary's!

The next Focus Groups will be held on Sunday, August 5th directly following each service. The topic and facilitator will be shared shortly. Future facilitators will be parish members. Please let us know if you are interested in facilitating a future Focus Group!

We, collectively as St. Mary's Parish Community, have an important and exciting opportunity to which we hope all of you will enthusiastically embrace and contribute!

Blessings,

Pam Ferguson, Senior Warden

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TRANSITION & TIMELINES

1. **Phase I—Initial Diocesan Information Sharing/Meet with Canon to understand transition process:** Focus on saying goodbye, establish Discernment Committee, supply clergy found for all worship services, emergency pastoral care defined. **COMPLETE**

2. **Phase II—Discovery Phase:** Focus Groups meet to get a better understanding of the ministry needs of our congregation. The Office of Transitional Ministries is responsible for obtaining names of discerning priests of which Peggy Bean, our Canon for Congregations is currently searching and obtaining names. The Discernment Committee will look at our focus group feedback comments to determine who we are as a parish community and what we are looking for in a new Rector. **IN PROCESS**
3. **Phase III—Interviews:** The Discernment Committee prepares for phone interviews, putting together interview questions based on the discovery phase; and coordinating interview logistics. They will also review portfolios and resumes, read blogs, & hear sermons. They will then phone interview candidates.
4. **Phase IV—Congregational Visits to Discerning Priests' Parishes**
5. **Phase V—Visit by Discerning Priests**

** A more detailed description of each phase can be found on the parish website, under Rector Transition.*



FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS FROM JULY 15, 2018 SESSIONS:

1. Remember a moment that was a high point, when you felt our church was doing God's work and fulfilling its mission... What was happening?
2. Name the three things you value most about your congregation.
3. Look back over your entire life... recall at time when you most appreciated the ministry of a priest. What was happening? What did you appreciate?
4. What will be our congregation's three most exciting, energizing and important accomplishments to you over the next three years?



QUESTIONS: Your Vestry is sincerely very excited and passionate about leading St. Mary's through the next chapter of our journey! As always, should you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, please feel free to contact us! We are committed to you and want to hear your thoughts! If you don't want to speak directly with us, please remember that the **Suggestion Box** is also available in the Narthex of the Church. We will successfully get through this together by trusting the process, trusting others and trusting God.