

MESSAGE FROM OUR THE SR. WARDEN - PROGRESS REPORT 2 (7.8.18)



Dear Parish Community,

The first step in our transition process to find a new priest is to learn from the entire Parish Community what the important considerations are. With this information in hand, we can better match the skills and talents of the potential candidates to St. Mary's spiritual, emotional and physical well-being.

Since our June meeting with Peggy Bean, Canon of Congregations for our diocese, the Vestry has met to develop a process targeted at learning what is important to the St. Mary's Parish Community. After reviewing alternatives, it was decided that the "**Focus Group**" approach will work best at gathering this necessary information. We considered doing written surveys, but upon reflection, decided that gathering our community together for these conversations was a far better way to do it. It is our ultimate goal to hear from as many people as possible. We recognize that summer is busy for all of us but sincerely hope that you will make every attempt to join us on the dates listed below.

The first Focus Group is scheduled to be held on **Sunday, July 15th, directly following both the 8am and 10am services**, and will be led by Peggy Bean. This is **YOUR** opportunity to express **YOUR** thoughts and ask questions regarding the future direction of St. Mary's. It is especially important that you attend this first Focus Group as it will address many overarching questions.

The second Focus Group will be held on **Sunday, August 5th**. Please note that each subsequent group will address specific topics that will vary each meeting. The gathered information will be displayed after the second meeting. If you are unable to attend either meeting, there will be further opportunities to express your thoughts.

The Vestry realizes that there is nothing more important than the continued good health of St. Mary's. We hope that we can count on all of you, valued members of our parish community, to provide your individual thoughts, experience and insight that will assist us during the critical decision-making process.

LONG-TERM SUPPLY PRIESTS

Your vestry was **very** busy this week! We met on two evenings and accomplished quite a bit! The most **exciting news** is that we interviewed long-term transition priests - a couple that have both retired as Episcopal priests -

and currently live in Michigan. They will be relocating to East Troy for the birth of their granddaughter. They expect to stay 6-9 months and their **expertise** is **transition**! They are just lovely - we spent three hours casually chatting and laughing with them and we were craving more time with them when they left! They are very excited to work with us during this next chapter of St. Mary's journey! We are currently working out the details and will provide more information on them very soon!

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Vestry also decided to assume the responsibility of the search committee. This is a model that has successfully been followed and recommended since the Vestry is charged with making the final decision as the governing body of the parish. It will save a step and, with modern technology, we are able to gain information regarding potential candidates much more quickly and efficiently (i.e., listening to sermons, etc.).

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 your Wardens, Treasurer and any of our dedicated Vestry members! 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.

Blessings,

Pam Ferguson, Senior Warden

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