

Building a Culture of "WELCOME"

How To Connect with Everyone..Our Parishioners, New Comers to the Community, the Community at Large

There were many, many great comments and ideas. Many ideas had to do with our website..stedwardandstpaul.org and our Bulletin. Each of these will be greatly enhanced to provide meaningful information to help everyone stay in touch with each other.

There were also great ideas having to do with folks getting together which are listed here, and we can pursue when we can start doing more "in person" activities.

- Our website will be added to the Pine Cone ad and included in our sign in front of Church
- Included on the website will be the New Member Registration form (revised), our Funeral Brochure and a listing of the various ways a person can participate in the life of the Church i.e. Bible Study groups, Men's Group, Women's Council, St. Paul's Ladies Council, etc.
- Information about any initiatives the Church may be involved in i.e., Intentional Discipleship, Amen generosity, etc.
- The Bulletin will be added each week. It is listed later here separately with all additional information to be included.
- A link emailed to get the Bulletin on line
- Opportunity to make your donation electronically
- Constantly updated with news and information

BULLETIN...

- with permission from people...list those requesting prayers, those who have passed, those with people in the military, those who have moved, etc.
- Maintenance Corner..updates on cost savings from changes made, things being done to responsibly maintain everyone's Church facility. Good and faithful stewards.
- An info block on each Study Group with an invitation to join
- Update on Financials..to include thank you's with any mention of special gifts..anonymous or named (as requested by donor).
- Mail out Bulletin if requested
- Calendar of Events..2 weeks out ..using calendar form
- Thank you's to members who have worked at special events , other volunteer activities
- Introduce "get together" opportunities that can be done now for our "grieving parishioners" open to anyone who has lost someone recently or in the past
- Socials to allow new and current parishioners an opportunity to "get out " of the house ..play cards, games...get to know each other better. Practice social distancing, no food. Just fun!
- Offer to Bless Homes ...maybe help to encourage new members
- Recommendation made and adopted to institute a Joint Council meeting quarterly with a representative from each group to facilitate better management and understanding of our Church's well being. First meeting at 1:00 pm mid March.

NEW MEMBERS

- Welcome Brochure, personal invitation to join
- Our ushers are members of the First Impression Team.
- As they see people coming in they don't recognize, acknowledge them with a smile and a nod. Hand them a New Member brochure.
- Welcome Committee..follow up with new members so they can see that they are valued. Introduce them to other members or groups to join as they wish. Keep track of them so they know that "We Care".
- "Welcoming Sunday" With permission, identify new members to Church after Mass. With permission, a brief bio in Bulletin, so others can reach out with similarities.

OUTREACH.... These will have to wait...but will be great

- Ecumenical Gatherings to Share Your Story..everyone has a story. Nice way to meet new people , make new friends
- Reintroduce some gathering with all the Churches in Longville
- Picnic, monthly food event, i.e. events where we are inviting the whole community.
- Coffee Hours after Mass
- Be seen at Community Functions. Get Church T shirts
- St. Paul's Street Evangelization. Ted Frick will be heading up this amazing opportunity to be out at community events and evangelize. We'll hear more about how exactly he will be doing this and how you may be able to help.

Follow up....Much of what we can do right now is in Deb's bailiwick. As we start to get our arms around these things, she may ask for help. Most of it is setting up the places in the bulletin and website to share the information listed. Once these spaces are set up...she will need a steady stream of info to keep them current and viable. That's how people will start to depend on the website and Bulletin as their link to all that is happening at their Church and they will be engaged. That's what we are looking for ..."a strategy to engage parishioners and develop a thriving parish that loves, welcomes, worships, serves and evangelizes." That is all part of *Amen Generosity*.

-