

Recommendations / Accomplishments of St. Mark's Parish Council:

June 18, 2008

1. Established new acting Council Leadership – 4/26/05
2. Recommended proceeding with the Parish Directory project – 5/24/05
These were completed and available for distribution in March 2006.
3. Recommended more Parish socials to help bring people together. A Parish Picnic is scheduled for Sept. 25. Wine & Cheese events will be held starting in October after one of the Saturday 5 PM Masses. Breakfast socials are being considered after certain Sunday Masses. – 5/24/05
4. Started ongoing interactive discussions of “The Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life; Descriptors of Worship” and how best to tie these into our Three Year Planning Cycle. – 6/28/05. Completed discussions 9/27/05. One key recommendation from this was to consider establishing a Liturgical Committee.
5. Recommended we try offering Communion in both species. – 6/28/05
Started on Holyday weekend of 8/13 & 14; now planned on all Holydays and on weekend masses once a month.
6. Started having presentations / discussions at Council meetings individually with other key Parish organizations:
 - Finance Committee – 6/28/05
 - Adult Faith Formation – 7/26/05
 - Holy Name Society & Readers – 8/30/05
 - Hispanic Parish Council – 9/27/05
 - Publications and Media – 7/25/06
 - Parish Youth Ministry – 11/28/06
7. Recommended final version of Year Planning Cycle Mission Statement – 7/26/05
8. Recommended a written response on the results of the Parish Survey – 7/26/05
This was published in our Bulletin on 8/21/05.
9. An open meeting with all Parish Ministries was held in Father Child's Hall on October 25, 2005 to discuss how we could all work collectively to meet the goals of our Three Year Planning Cycle Mission Statement.
10. A meeting was held on Nov. 19, 2005 with Msgr and Dennis to discuss the formation of a Liturgical Committee as previously recommended. This committee is expected to be formalized after our new Intergenerational Faith Formation Director position is filled.
11. Reviewed and prioritized suggestions from our Oct. 25th meeting for future action consideration. 12/6/05
12. Started monitoring the various meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. that our Diocese sponsors and reporting on those of potential interest. 12/6/05
13. Began posting Parish Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes on our Parish website for all interested Parishioners to review. This started in 2006.
14. Began detailed review of the prioritized suggestions from our Oct. 25th meeting and started developing recommendations and action plans appropriately. 1/31/06
Completed on 6/27/06.
15. Start using our Bulletin to provide more information to our Parishioners on Adult Catechesis and Evangelization. 1/31/06

16. Recommended adding a hot-key to our Parish website to access more information on our weekly Mass Readings. 1/31/06
17. Members of the Hispanic Ministry were added to our Parish Council. 1/31/06
18. Began planning for a special Welcoming Mass to be done annually with the theme of reaching out to our inactive Parishioners. 1/31/06 (To be continued when the position for our Intergenerational Faith Formation Director is filled.)
19. Recommended keeping our Homilies simple with the goal of providing one specific take-away related to the Readings. 2/28/06
20. Recommended occasionally adding explanations during Mass on the significance of certain parts of the Mass. 2/28/06
21. Invited the musical group of the Hispanic Ministry to occasionally perform at other Sunday Masses. 3/28/06
22. Recommended having a representative of each Ministry speak after Mass annually so Parishioners can become more aware of their activities. 3/28/06
23. An Agenda Item was added in May 06 for members to provide any Parishioner feedback they have for discussion at our meetings.
24. Recommended that we announce in our Bulletin and create an accommodation for Parishioners to ask questions on any topics of interest through our web site, by mail or by a note in the collection basket. 5/30/06
25. Held a follow-up Parish Council meeting with all the Parish Ministries on 10/24/06 which was followed by a wine & cheese social for all attendees.
26. Scheduled a general meeting open to all Parishioners for April 24, 2007.
27. Recommended that booklets be prepared with the essentials of what our Parishioners need to know when planning a wedding or needing to arrange a funeral at St. Mark's. 11/28/06
28. Held a special open Parish Council meeting on April 24, 2007 for all Parishioners. Discussed and processed various concerns and suggestions raised by conscientious Parishioners in preparation for this meeting.
29. Met with Joanne Gibson and the head of Trinity Publishing Company, who handles St. Mark's website, to discuss website expansion and better ways to incorporate changes and additions going forward. 8/28/07
30. Established and documented "St. Mark's Website Posting Protocol" to guide all Ministries in developing and posting their website documentation. 9/25/07
31. Stimulated the gathering of information on preparing for Marriage and Funerals at St. Mark's, which has been published on the website. 9/25/07
32. Recommended that our Council meet with the Diocesan Personnel Director to discuss the selection process for a new Pastor in preparation for Monsignor Carton's possible retirement next year. 11/27/07
33. Met with Fr. Bacovin, our Diocesan Personnel Director, on January 30, 2008 to discuss the process at the Diocese of Trenton for selecting a new Pastor. He asked that Monsignor provide any recommendations he might have for his replacement as well.
34. Recommended and helped with the planning for a Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Event that was successfully completed on April 13, 2008.
35. Working with the heads of our various Ministries to provide key information on the website as part of our Parish transition planning. (Ongoing)