

Holy Family Church Transformation Update February 2016

A lot has been happening since the presentation of the Action Plan and Mission at the 9:45 and 5pm Masses last October. The following is a brief summary of the work that has been going on in each of our focus areas to foster growth and engagement in our parish community.

Prayer and Worship

Catechesis for the children is off to a strong start with 35 children actively participating along with an increase in family involvement in the liturgy. **RCIA** has been expanded and includes sessions with Father Mike, Deacon Dave and Jim Bruton biweekly on Wednesday evenings. **Lay witness** talks have begun with a presentation for Labor Day as well as the Advent reflection organized by Jim in December. An instruction on the Rosary was given by Deacon Dave in October. Pre Cana preparation is now offered every other month at Holy Family and Baptism preparation managed by Deacon Rudy is ongoing. The liturgy committee and liturgical ministers are actively at work as always and Women of the Spirit continues to thrive!

Communio

A very successful **Ministry Fair** was held on Sunday November 29th. It yielded many new parishioner volunteers from both Masses for both the liturgy and choir as well as the Food Pantry and Ushers and Greeters. Orientations and trainings have begun to take place where needed. If you have not been contacted by a lead for the ministry you signed up for you will be soon. In the process descriptions of the duties for many of the ministries were also updated. Different ministries are being recognized and blessed within the liturgy on a regular basis as well. A bulletin board will be created for the back of church to provide Ministry contact information and facilitate communication. New participants are always welcome! Thanks to all for reflecting on how and where you might best serve in parish life.

A **family oriented service opportunity** is also in the planning stages and will be announced shortly. A **speaker committee** to look at future opportunities for spiritual enrichment and advancement of our Mission will be forming soon as well.

Spiritual Stewardship

Efforts to build fellowship are underway for the **5pm Mass** including a recent social gathering following Mass with another planned for the near future.

The Spiritual Stewardship committee met and discussed interest in a Ministry of Care, Bereavement ministry, and a Youth group. Coordination with the Archdiocesan specific guidelines for these ministries will be needed and require further planning.

Odell Gordon attended a day long meeting about development of an online presence for the parish that was put on by the Archdiocese. This will be a very important endeavor to strengthen communication and outreach for Holy Family. A group led by Odell and Jim Bruton will move this forward. Watch for more information on this in the bulletin soon.

Finance

The **Financial report** was given by Father in November and two new members have been added to the Finance committee. Collections have increased and between Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Family many generous donations were received! Give Central use has also increased. A committee has been formed to begin the initial planning for a **Big Raffle**.

**We plan to provide quarterly updates about new initiatives, progress and growth through the bulletin and by email. Overall the response of our parishioners to become involved in new ways has been tremendous! Your ideas and participation are always welcome.
Thank-you!**