



Catholic Family of Epiphany Parish



Immaculate Heart of Mary

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St. Joseph the Worker

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January 25, 2021

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past two years, some members of the Parish Council have worked as a subcommittee to exam parish programs and the facilities on both campuses. The members of the subcommittee include Matt Lusnar, John Cerrone, Jim Bowers, Ted Hansen, and Thad Fink.

The general purpose of their work was to gather information to evaluate the use of resources and programs at both locations. The committee interviewed each staff member to gather information from the perspective of their ministry. Sincere thanks to member of our staff for their valuable input!

The information gathered will be used to develop a strategic plan regarding programs and staffing for Epiphany Parish. The Parish Council made the decision to be proactive in developing a plan after becoming aware of changes that took place in Oswego involving Parishes there. Some Epiphany parishioners have raised questions/concerns about the financial feasibility of continuing to operate the parish on two campuses. The Parish Council wishes to facilitate and engage in informed decision-making.

After the fire at St. Joseph the Worker Rectory in May, the Parish Council, in consultation with Bishop Lucia decided to take another/deeper look at the use of facilities. The council asked the Bishop to refer us to a Diocesan level individual who could assist us to consider the facts objectively in our decision-making process.

Under the leadership of Ed King, the Diocesan Facilities Manager, the facilities on both campuses have been examined with an *'apples to apples and oranges to oranges'* approach. An architect and a realtor have also been consulted. The Parish Council along with the Finance committee, heard a report based on their findings on January 19, 2021. The Parish Council has asked the subcommittee to reconvene to look at our worship spaces to explore potential architectural needs and costs.

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The next step in the process is to share information with you, the People of God in the Parish to get your thoughts and feedback. Parish Council member are in the process of working out the details about how to go about gathering your feedback during the pandemic. Options include but are not necessarily limited to Zoom meetings, in-house meeting with social distancing procedures in place, letter, etc.

There is no established timeframe for a decision as to what should or should not happen; we are still in the information gathering stage.

It is possible that you may hear rumors about this over the next weeks and months. *Please come to me or any member of the committee about concerns so that we can clarify things and we will not waste time and emotions on rumors. I can be reached by emailing info@ihmsjw.org.*

As soon as the Council has established a schedule of dates and times of listening sessions, we will share them with you. In the meantime, please continue to pray for God's guidance according to His will.

God Bless you,

Rev. Daniel J. O'Hara
Pastor

Subcommittee contacts

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