

Ongoing Activities, Plans and Suggested Actions Being Considered:

1. How Can St. Mark's Foster Adult Catechesis?

Ongoing Activities:

- St. Mark's held a Parish Mission in March.
- A hot-key was added on our web site to access an external web site that provides Bible study specific to the Sunday Readings that parishioners can access at their convenience.
- "Faith Enrichment for Adult Catholics" sessions are being held on Wednesday nights starting March 15 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, as part of our Parish's Diocesan Faith Enrichment Center's activities.
- St. Mark's has an active Bible Study Group for young mothers and children that is very well attended.
- More Adult Catechesis information is now being provided in our Bulletin.

Plans:

- We are recruiting to fill a new full time position, Intergenerational Faith Formation Director. This person will provide direction for our Adult Faith Formation Ministry, CYO, Young Adults, Welcoming Mass, etc.
- Intergenerational Catechesis Program - More work is needed here to develop a plan for implementing parts of this at St. Mark's, and we will need to recruit some volunteers to support this activity. This will be coordinated with our new Intergenerational Faith Formation Director when available.
- We will try to keep the Homilies simple with one specific take-away, related to the Readings. This can also be reinforced with relevant information in our Bulletin, web site and CCD instruction.
- We will try to focus our attention first on educating our Parishioners on the most important elements of the Mass / Liturgy and the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The Celebrant will occasionally add explanations during Mass and briefly discuss the significance of certain parts of the Mass. This can also be reinforced with relevant information in our Bulletin, web site, and CCD instruction.

- We will announce in our Bulletin an accommodation for Parishioners to ask questions on any topics of interest through our web site, as well as through the mail or by dropping a note in the collection basket.
- We will be publishing in our Bulletin in advance who the Mass Celebrants will be.
- We are looking into the Diocesan list of guest speakers and topics for appropriate talks to be given at St. Mark's.

Suggested Actions Being Considered:

- We should encourage our Parishioners to review the selected Readings in advance to prepare for Mass.

2. How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster Better Attendance at Mass?

Ongoing Activities:

- Occasional "wine & cheese" socials after the 5 PM Mass on Saturday.
- There will be special Welcoming Masses scheduled annually with the theme of reaching out to those who are not currently involved with the Church or those seeking a spiritual home.
- It had been recommended that St. Mark's should have better signs outside of the Church to get the attention of more people and to better advertise some of our religious and social events. It was recommended that the Church purchase portable signs that can be used for increased exposure of special events. Those signs have been purchased and are now in use.

Plans:

- We are trying to develop a youth musical group.
- We have invited the music group of the Hispanic Ministry to occasionally perform at other Sunday Masses. This will be scheduled and announced in advance in our Bulletin.

Suggested Actions Being Considered:

- Have a specific program for CCD parents and have more special Masses with their participation.

- Have our CCD children perform more at Masses, using the children's choir and having the children do more readings to help improve attendance.
- "Relationship building" may be a good topic for a future Homily.

3. How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster Increased Parish Participation In Various Ministries?

Ongoing Activities:

- Have a representative of each Ministry speak after Mass once a year to help our Parishioners become more aware of their activities.

Plans:

Suggested Actions Being Considered:

4. How Can St. Mark's Parish Foster More Youth Involvement?

Ongoing Activities:

- Checking with St. Catherine's & others on what they do. Msgr will speak with St. Michael's in Union / best CYO in the state.
- Bowling league
- Basketball games
- Update Web site and keep it current
- We need to recruit someone to run our Youth Program.
- We are trying to develop a youth musical group.

Plans:

- Have our CCD children perform more at Masses, using the children's choir and having the children do more readings.

Suggested Actions Being Considered: