

SAINT EMERY'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October, 2016

Update of Parish Activities and Synod Challenge - Task Force

Religious Education, RCIA, Adult Faith Formation and Other Programs

The religious education classes for children started in September 2016 with 10 children enrolled. There are 2 currently enrolled in the Adult Faith Formation program. A bible study group for women was started the first week of October and 9 women are currently participating.

Synod – Task Force Survey

One hundred fifty surveys were available and sixty-five (or 43%) were returned. The comments were as we expected with:

What are your greatest hopes for our Parish?

There was an overwhelming response to remain open. The question now is, "How do we increase our membership?"

What are your greatest concerns for our Parish?

Financial stability and closing were the two highest comments. We are seeing an increase in weekly collections over last year. Our events have produced an increase in revenues over last year. We have been faced with many hurdles; such as, the boiler failure, leaks in the bell tower and in the church hall back room, drainage issues at the rectory, parish school roof replacement, etc. This is why it is important to support our annual church drive in order to help defray the costs associated with repairs.

Overall, most answers were positive. Some areas we are now working on are:

- A. The Ladies Guild - a meeting is planned for October 20, 7 PM church hall. Ladies, if you are able, please plan to attend.
- B. Another area is that we need to add more worship activities. If you will remember, the May Crowning was reinstated with the help of some of our children participating. Stations of the Cross followed by luncheons. Novenas and benediction are other considerations.
- C. More outreach programs. It is important we are visible to the Diocese to make sure we are doing our part to help those less fortunate. One possibility we will be looking at is volunteers to help out at the Merton House.

Your participation in this survey was greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your personal comments and suggestions.

We need your help and hope when you see requests for help in the bulletin or are called upon, you will consider assisting. All volunteers must be Virtus trained and get background checks.

Please remember, we are all Disciples of Christ; walk with Him to ensure our church flourishes and aids those less fortunate.

God Bless you, your families and God Bless St. Emery's Parish.

Parish Advisory Council and Planning Task Force