

Parish Meeting after 8:00 Mass  
St. James the Apostle  
January 31, 2016

Planning Team Attendees: Barb Willers, Scott Hamula, Kathy Sinkiewicz, Karen Rinefierd, Fr. Maloney

Fr. Maloney did an opening prayer.

Barb was the facilitator and reviewed the merger process including the church portion and the legal portion.

Parishioners were informed that Mass would continue at St. James Parish. The second church to continue to have weekly mass has not yet been determined.

**Questions and Answers**

**Would Mass schedule change?**

Mass schedule may change but that has not been determined yet. Planning team looking at that at the next meeting in February. There would be meetings for parishioner input before changes would be made.

**Would the church festival held by the Women's Guild continue?**

Barb indicated that the festival would continue as usual. The funds would go into one pool of money that would support the merged parish.

**Would volunteers in different ministries be shared among the different churches?**

It may be possible for ushers and music ministers or others to do things at the other church. That would be determined in the future.

**Would there be a new name? Who picks?**

Each individual church would keep their current name but the new merged parish would have a new name. A possible process would be for the Pastor to suggest 3 names to the Bishop who makes the final decision on the new name.

**Will there be opportunities to merge the communities together? Right now it seems like they are three separate bodies.**

There will be social and religious opportunities to merge the Catholics between the lakes together. In February there currently is a dinner dance planned. The Triduum services (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) might be conducted together again in a manner similar to last year.

**What would be the procedures if you needed a priest in an emergency?**

Nothing would change with that. The priest would be called by contacting the parish office. In the future there will be one parish office. Location is yet to be determined.

Advantages/ Disadvantages of Merger:

A possible advantage: that other may be able to help out or fill in for different ministries in the time of illness or vacation for example music ministers.

A possible disadvantage: With the distance between the three churches in the rural area depending on mass schedule there may be less people attending mass/ going to church.

Parishioners were told if they had any other input to send it to Fr. Maloney