**Catholic Church of St. James**

***Parish Town Hall Meeting***

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

**Bicentennial Campaign**

* Brian Alberts from the Diocese joined via zoom to give an overview of this campaign.
* This campaign is a onetime campaign that all parishes in the diocese are asked to participate in to commemorate the bicentennial of the Diocese of Charleston.
* The Diocese had a goal of raising $60 million. They have raised $66.5 million so far.
* The campaign has been delayed due to COVID-19.
* St. James was originally set to do the campaign January-May of 2020. The original goal for St. James was $730,000 (with an actual goal of $1.3 million).
* Now, St. James’ goal is $500,000. Because the silent phase of the campaign already began last year, St. James has $220,000 raised.
* If we meet our target, St. James receives 50% of all money raised. If we go above our target, we receive 75% of that money back. St. James receives quarterly payments from the diocese.
* Money is raised over the course of 5 years through pledges and 1-time gifts. This will be done through phone calls, mailings, and e-mails.
* St. James has a committee of parishioners dedicated to the success of this campaign.
* Funds received from this campaign will go towards replacing the parking lot, the new sign on 501, youth ministry, and other ministries at St. James.
* We are working on ways to engage our Hispanic parishioners to pledge because pledging is not a typical aspect of their culture.
* The St. James website will have information about the campaign.

**Bishop’s Annual Appeal**

* The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is different than the bicentennial campaign and occurs every year.
* St. James did not participate in 2020 due to the bicentennial campaign.
* The envelopes for this are pink.
* St. James typically receives 8-10 thousand dollars back.

**Financial Overview**

* Executive Assistant, Paula Loehr, reviewed the financial impacts of COVID-19 and the opening of the Carolina Forest Catholic Community.
* The Carolina Forest Catholic Community is not currently a parish or mission. This is determined by the Diocese and can take years to establish. They offer 4 masses and have around 130 families currently. They are using the Elizabeth Ann Seton school building.
* The analysis runs from January 2020-February 2021.
  + Electronic giving has gone up 75%.
  + Total assessable revenue has gone down by 32%.
  + Approximately 50 families have moved to the Carolina Forest Catholic Community. This created a decrease of $4000 a month.
  + The offertory collection is down 11% a month.

**Pastoral Plan**

* As a parish, we need a “GPS” to help guide us.
* Our mission is to “go and make disciples”. Our vision is “a community of joyful disciples”. Fr. Oscar would like us to continue to engage with this new mission/vision and help all parishioners learn it.
* Typically, pastoral plans are good for 5 years. However, Fr. Oscar says it takes several years to create a plan. Therefore, we should look at creating a 10-year plan that we update every few years.
* This is a huge goal for St. James at the moment.
* Different commissions (committees) will be created to help lead the charge on how the parish envisions St. James in 10 years. Examples of commissions include youth ministry, faith formation, elderly population, etc.
* The input of parishioners is of utmost importance as we dream of the future for St. James.
* Our pastoral plan should coincide with the Diocese of Charleston.
* This pastoral plan will be for each member of our community.

**Other Items**

* The building of a new Adoration Chapel has been put on pause for the time being since the cost of materials has doubled. Once prices decrease, this project will continue.
* St. James currently owns two rectories: the one Fr. Oscar lives in, and the one Fr. Time previously lived in. As of this week, the rectory that Fr. Tim lived in is being sold. A new rectory will eventually be built on Academy Drive (St. James property).
* A secure lock box for loose money should be added to the church grounds so that parishioners who do not have a way to tithe/donate online, who forget to tithe/donate online, or who want to make a onetime donation may do so with loose money.
* On Palm Sunday, we might do another drive through Palm pick up for those not able to come to Mass.
* Parishioner Kevin Monahan would like to start a committee to plan the building of a covered pavilion in the back field for the parish to hold gatherings, Masses, and other events.
* A permanent Stations of the Cross display will be set up around the campus of St. James. Anyone wishing to donate towards this project may do so through Fr. Oscar or the front office.
* The Founders Center is in the slow process of being renovated. Currently the outside of the building has been beautified. Murals will adorn both sides of the building. One side will have an image of joyful Jesus and joyful (multicultural) disciples. The second side will be in honor of COVID-19 victims, frontline workers, and fallen officers who were parishioners of St. James. The COVID-19 memorial park will host a statue of St. Anthony. The idea is that our campus is not simply made up of buildings but is a home to parishioners.
* A suggestion was made to send the annual raffle for the parish via mail so that parishioners staying home can participate as well.
* The building on 544 for the CCU Campus ministry does not belong to St. James. It belongs to the Bishop. It is being worked on now.
* A suggestion was made to put a suggestion box in the church building or online for parishioners.
* St. James will continue to listen to the Bishop’s mandate on masks and social distancing for parishes. This means we are currently still required to wear masks and can only have 50% capacity in the Sanctuary.
* It was mentioned that it is difficult for Hispanic members of our community to come out on a Saturday morning. Is it possible to have another meeting at night? Fr. Oscar will work on this.

Parish Town Hall meetings will be held once a month. We encourage those who are willing and able to attend in person. However, a zoom option will be available to those who are unable to join in person.

***The next meeting will be on Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 AM.***