**Town Hall Meeting November 12, 2022**

Tim Papa opened the meeting with a Prayer.

Paula Talked about the agenda. Starting with the Thanksgiving Day Mass at 10AM Mass time, The Christmas party, Advent.

Thanksgiving Day – Thursday 10AM Mass

The weekend after Thanksgiving – at all Masses everyone can bring their Advent wreath to have it blessed by Father Oscar.

On Dec. 1st The Munchers Mass at 10AM

On Dec. 5th the Ecumenical Advent Luncheon is at the Founder Center at St. James at 12 noon. The Ladies Guild will supply sandwiches, Pasta salad and a fruit salad and one desert. This is a time for ecumenical reflection during Advent. Rev. Kyle Randle from First United Methodist Church is the speaker.

Dec. 6th – hanging of the greens at St. James at 7pm. Talks about the meaning of the Christmas decors with beautiful hymns to prepare for Christmas

Dec. 7th – the Vigil Masses at 6PM in English and 8PM in Spanish

Dec. 8th – 9AM and 12 Noon in English

Dec. 11th – Feast of Guadalupe celebration from 10AM to 5 PM. It starts after the 9AM Mass. This will start with the Procession, then the Mass, and the Food Festival after. We are trying to make this a multi-cultural event, from Mexican, Filipino, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian etc.

Dec. 11th – 14th the Advent Parish Mission at 6:30PM on the 11th we will have Father Michael Jolie speaking. On the 12th -13th there will be a 10AM and 6:30PM services .

Dec. 12th - Las Mananitas at 5AM the Feast of Guadalupe which they say it’s bringing/breathing in the morning air.

Dec. 14th - Advent Parish Penance Services from 4:30 to 6PM in English and 7 to 8:30 PM in Spanish. They do not leave until everyone has said their confession.

Dec. 16th -24th -Las Posadas – is a Mexican religious Festival commemorating the journey of Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. We will be going from house-to-house replicating this.

Dec. 17th – Parish Christmas Party – NO 6PM MASS THAT DAY The parish will supply the desserts.

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Masses in English at 4PM which is the Children’s Mass. 6PM a normal Mass. The 11PM mass in English is when the choir will be singing. The 8PM Mass is in Spanish.

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Masses in English is at 10AM and 12PM in Spanish.

Dec. 31 and Jan. 1st New Years Eve and Day Masses will not change.

Paula talked about the schedule of Masses changing in the new year after New Year’s Day.

The 4:30 and 6PM mass will be at 5PM on Saturday

Proposed: The 7:30 and 9AM Mass will be at 8 and 10 on Sunday. Feedback was positive

Proposed: The 12:00 Mass will be at 1:00 on Sunday. Feedback was positive.

Paula said we will start the Christmas Party with a Posada. She talked about ideas for the Christmas Party. It is to bring the community together, it’s a Pot Luck of side dishes because the Parish supplies the main dish. We have gotten request for softer music and no lights no smoke still a mix of music. We usually start off with soft English music usually 6-8 then 8-9 a mix of English / Spanish, then 9-til Spanish. Because our goal is to socialize. We will supply soda, water, adult beverages -wine, spiked egg nog. Maybe Margaritas. Some one asked for Diet Coke and caffeine free. Paula is checking with Earl about this. There will be a pinata for the kids Father Oscar wants really nice decorations, the Knight of Columbus is bringing in St. Nick for the kids, and we will have a pinata for the kids.

Mary suggested that we decorate the church so beautifully, that we should have a photographer come in and take pictures of it and make them into Christmas Cards and sell them to the parishioner. Everyone agreed. The organist asks Fr. Oscar to not cover the organ speakers. Fr. Oscar said they have 4 speakers, how can you not. Some one suggested tours, and someone else thanked Fr. Oscar for his explanation of some of his sermons.

Fr. Oscar talked about us becoming more diverse to our non-English communities. Paula said we want to move towards a kind of moving from multiculturalism approach, the new thinking, it is called transculturation. The key points are to be culturally humble, and to become culturally competent in cultures other than your own. So, humility and competence. So, the humility part is, you know we are very ethnocentric. Everyone one thinks their culture is the right one. So, we move away from ethnocentricity, to the cultural humility and then building competence is our journey and begin to be open to learning about other cultures and becoming competent. To being open to learning new cultures and being competent, learning their beliefs, their prayer traditions are. So how do we blend our communities, by respecting and honoring their cultures and coming together and sharing on occasions. So, transculturation is where we are heading. Father asked for us to welcome all people and enjoy the diversity.

Marilyn told Paula that the we will do the Ecumenical Advent Luncheon, however we can’t guarantee suppling side dishes and desserts for the Christmas party because that is the weekend of our Cookie Sale and most of our ladies are seniors. Paula said she would do something for the desserts and if we could do as many side dishes as we could.

Someone mentioned that when we are asked to pray for the Synod, we get no feedback about it. Fr. Oscar said to go to the website of the Synod. He said after the phases we will see how we will follow up with the Synod. The bishop may want to continue the program an extra year but we are waiting how to continue the program. Diane said we are waiting because this year is the first year it was out in the parishes getting everyone’s feedback and then last April all of that was committed to the United States council Catholic bishops and the bishops like you said are now synthesizing that. Tim Papa said they were finished with that and now going to the US Council of Catholic Missions (USCC.org). They have the document on the website and you can download it. Father asked us to be patient because the bishop is new and has many issues. He has a team working on it.

Fr. Oscar announced that our new Bishop Jacques is asking all the parishes to do a Cursillo retreat. We have 30 men from our Spanish community that have done it and are willing to help us organize it. He is asking the Deacons to go too. He talked about we have some Spanish men that have done it through North Carolina, and are willing to help out. The disciples are opening up a house in Florence, no need to just to worry about transportation. They come to your house and pick you up and bring you home. It’s a great experience said Mary Jean. Paula said it was going to be the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after the Divine Mercy.

The Golden Agers group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, the women asked if they could change the name so more people of all ages will come

Fr. Oscar talked about 70% of confessions are having an issue with pornography. He asked Paula to look into how we can help them.