

Area Catholic Community Update

Our planning council meet last week to discuss several things on the agenda, most notably to address the issue of what to call our ACC. At our last meeting we agreed that using something that sounds too much like a parish name would be confusing, and decided that a more regional or comprehensive name would make sense for our situation at this time. Several possibilities were offered that give a clear indication of who and what we are, like “Saint Cloud Metro North ACC” or that made references to the history of this area with terms like “Pantown” or “Granite City” or the rail line that runs through our parishes.

There was much discussion on these and other names that looked at both the advantages and disadvantages of them. Ultimately, however, we could not come up with a consensus on any of the suggestions and tabled the discussion. We are still in discussion through e-mail about this issue, including adding several new ideas for consideration (like, “Shared Mission ACC”). If you want to share any of your thoughts or ideas, please contact me or your parish’s representative on the planning council.

The other main topic for discussion was to begin to look at the Mass schedule. For our consideration, we first looked at our current Mass schedule and the attendance at those Masses, which gives us a baseline for the *minimum* number of Masses we would need in our ACC. We followed with some discussion about what we need to consider as we continue to explore the options at future meetings. Including the desire to have various options for Mass times or the possibility of alternating the schedule throughout the year. At this point, it is not expected that we would change Mass times until the summer of 2020 at the earliest, but we want to begin the discussion now so we can be sure to have plenty of input and consideration on any changes.

St. Joseph Parish Festival

St. Joseph in Waite Park is holding its festival on Friday, September 6th. We will celebrate with a fish fry, silent auction, live music, bingo and more (see the bulletin for more details). I would like to encourage everyone from the parish and the community to join us in the festivities. The festival is also a major fundraiser for our parish. Please participate in the calendar raffle as much as possible. Also consider volunteering some time to help with set up or clean up, or even an item or two for the silent auction. This is an opportunity to grow in that fellowship which fosters strong bonds among families and friends.