

Notes from our Parish Meeting

March 28, 2017

This meeting was part of the ongoing effort to keep everyone informed of our progress in merging our two parishes. A great deal of work has gone on over many months to get us ready for this merger. Father Marcin and all the staff, including our new Leadership Team, encourage everyone to remember that while change can be difficult, with positive attitudes and open hearts, we can forge a stronger church for our future. This sort of process has been happening successfully in dioceses throughout the United States. For us, it is a new beginning and a chance to embrace what is best of both parishes and build on that to create a stronger unified parish. All parishioners are encouraged to be involved through our many ministries to help make our new parish the very best it can be in meeting the spiritual needs of all its members, as well as reaching out to others in our community.

Such a momentous undertaking deserves to be marked by ceremony. The Catholic parishes of Saint Bridget and Saint Bartholomew will complete our merger and celebrate our full unity on June 3rd as we celebrate Pentecost. At that time, we will have a new name. Father Marcin has submitted two choices to Archbishop Blair. They are the Catholic Parish of Saint Bridget and Saint Bartholomew or Saint Bridget and Saint Bartholomew Catholic Parish. The Archbishop will let us know his decision soon.

The meeting went on to offer practical information about how our new parish will look as we move forward. Of course, some things will continue to change or need adjustment, and there will be future meetings to keep everyone informed of our progress. For now, here are some of the practical facts.

We now have a Leadership Team with members from both churches. Our combined parishes have over 120 ministries. In time, that number will diminish as we combine those with like goals. Each ministry will be assigned a member of the Leadership Team to serve them in any way needed. The Team will meet each Monday at 10AM at Saint Bridget. This meeting will be preceded by Adoration from 9:30 to 10 in the church and all parishioners are invited to join in this half hour of adoration.

Our Leadership Team consists of the following members with their areas of coordination:

Pastor	Father Marcin Pluciennik
Pastor's Administrative Assistant	Kathy Sheridan
Education	Kathleen Sinnamon
Adults	Steven DiMotta
Youth Ministry	Denise Bartlett
Children's Education	Mary Alice Nadaskay
Saint Bridget School	John Ryan
Social Ministry	Father Timothy Ryan, Parochial Vicar
Pastoral Care	Deacon William Gilles and Deacon Thomas Breen
Liturgy and Music	Jane Peacock
Operations Task Force	Diane Gluhosky
Communication	To be determined

Our Administration Center will be at Saint Bridget. There will be satellite offices at St Bartholomew. The St Bartholomew campus of meeting rooms will be used as an Education and Meeting Center. All Religious Education will be at St Bartholomew with one exception. First Communion ceremonies will continue to take place at both churches. Both campuses will be wired and electronically ready for the needs of those holding meetings. Each Leadership Team member will have access to both sets of buildings.

There is no change in our Mass schedule.

Anything relating to St Bridget School will remain unchanged.

Be sure to watch the bulletin for announcements of future parish meetings designed to keep us all involved and informed.

All changes come with an ending and a beginning. On June 3rd, as we celebrate Pentecost and the graces of the Holy Spirit, we will also celebrate the end of two excellent but separate parishes and the creation of our new unified parish of both Saint Bridget and Saint Bartholomew.