

Ss. Isidore and Maria Torribia Planning Committee
Compiled Top 5 Suggested Strategies
April 29, 2019

Mass schedule

- Re-visit the Mass schedule in light of parishioner input at last fall's town hall meetings and what we've heard since then
- Possibly revise the Mass schedule
- Good communication with parishioners—if revised or not

Finances—fundraising

- Choose one major event to do soon
- Establish a fundraising committee
- (in process) letter going out via mail asking for one-time donation

Finances—collections

- Stewardship/increased giving campaign

Finances—budgeting, cost cutting

Consolidate faith formation

More job sharing (e.g. with St. John Vianney)

Closing a worship site?

- Analyze the costs associated with each facility, space needs of the parish (e.g. for meetings, offices), and anticipated loss of parishioners/revenue if any of our sites were to close
- Learn more about the process (in church and civil law) required to close a church or sell property

Changing the style of one or more Masses—e.g. shorter, no music

Evangelization, especially to inactive Catholics

- Encourage parishioners to take extra bulletins and share with those not attending
- Reactivate parishioners who have left

Evangelization—focus on being more welcoming

- To increase attendance
- Creating a welcoming environment

Better communication

- In multiple ways
- Improve communication between committees

Social Media/Marketing

- FaceBook, Instagram (ask for parish volunteer to update weekly)
- Market ourselves as many of the Protestant churches do—to reach people who are “church shopping”, make Catholicism relevant to our latest generations

Strong spirituality, adult faith formation/catechesis

- More use of the catechism, more teaching in homilies
- A teaching Mass (explaining the parts of the Mass)

Parish directory/calendar

Community (team) building

- Creating teams—e.g. lawn mowing

Dealing with the mistrust that exists in the community, toward the diocese, etc.

Involve the children

- Monthly children's Mass—with older ones lectoring, children bringing up the gifts, children invited to come around the altar for the Eucharistic prayer or Our Father, etc.
- Children's choir
- Children's Liturgy of the Word—children leave Mass during the readings and homily, they hear readings and have preaching aimed at their level (materials available)

Revising process of Mass intentions

- Announcements from pulpit and in bulletin encouraging people to request Mass cards
- Posting calendar/spreadsheet of which Masses are available for intentions (would help with communication and increasing Mass attendance)

Increase volunteering

- Invite from pulpit and directly person to person
- Let people know exactly what is needed, what the time commitment is, the duration of the commitment

Coffee carts—paid coffee cart outside of Mass

- Get donated baked goods, brew coffee/tea so people can get a quick snack and beverage as they leave Mass instead of going to the local Dunkin' or diner

Leadership