

St Anthony's Parish
Berwick
March 28, 2018

Communications

Valley YouTube channel --> our version of Mass for shut-ins too!

Valley Facebook page.

Communication (email, phone calls, bulletin, website) at present - excellent/great. (x3)

Central communication is already happening- emails, telephone messages, even central pages of events in the bulletin.

That the central region (church) be extremely welcoming to incoming parishioners and that the incoming go out of their way to try to fit in. "Catholic" means "inclusive".

We are "the church". The change must come from us. We must be the change.

One Call Now is great. (X3)

Will churches be able to get along making decisions? We are all prejudice.

A better way to reach our young people through technology.

Email registry for the whole region.

Ads targeting those who have left (TV, radio, e-news).

Better understanding of what's available for seniors e.g. Facebook, Twitter, other.

Have a page in our bulletin for events to be listed which are happening in the various parishes, i.e.

Dinner Theatre, St. Pat's Day party.

Having one regional bulletin is a good idea that builds the larger community.

Faith Formation

Faith formation is lacking for adults.

Prayer groups, book studies, reflect on Sunday readings during the week leading to Mass as a group.

ALPHA, Adult studies, "Zoom" studies from home.

This is important. We are doing some now & could do a better job by combining resources & talents.

Catechism for whole family from children to adult formation. (x2)

Adults could attend sacramental prep. with their children.

Now have ALPHA, Interchurch, Cursillo, Knights of Columbus, CWL.

Faith formation should be more promoted.

Access to religious education for children, youth formation.

Things like Cursillo, RCIA, Marriage Prep. are not affected.

Adult education, Rosary - weekly, prayer breakfasts, retreats.

For Youth, bring together your to celebrate their faith, retreats, so they meet others who are Catholics...support.

Need to get younger people to church.

(Evangelize) parents who ask for baptising children. (Visitation) lay visitations.

Engage community more.

Faith formation a miracle!

Book studies.

At least 3 churches between Windsor & Bridgetown to be infrastructure for disciples.

Understanding my Catholic background. Courses.

Finances

Less money will be given.

One finance committee with reps from all community churches. (x2)

Having to share our collections.

Finance resources should not be put into any general fund but kept in a small controlled fund for each Parish.

Equal representation, male & female, on finance committee.

People will be afraid that more money will leave this community than will return.

Will all the resources remain in the parish.

Sharing resources will be challenging.

What will be the composition of finance council? i.e. what areas will member be represented by?

Reduced facility operating costs redirected to Faith Formation.

Some control over our local finances- i.e. Dinner Theatre, Silent Auction.

Less money will be given if people fall away or not go to Mass as often. If Sunday service not a Mass donations could be 1/2

Graffiti Wall

How do we get young people to church if they have to travel far to church?

How many Catholics will we lose?

How many donations financially for our Parish?

How will re-organization accommodate people with special needs?

Why cannot Lay people have church service with Communion on Sunday?

Each church should have Lay people to do church services.

Extremely important to have equal representation on regional parish council, e.g. male, female, youth, senior. Will that happen?

Female Lay presider, female deacons: Is there a possibility of that happening

We need to do more with the other Christian churches, Maybe we can have a shared church for Christian churches in Berwick.

Has this restructuring ever been tried before anywhere in the world? Was it successful? How did they do it?

Catholic Church going the way of Nova Scotia Health system?

I would strongly consider giving up on the RC church.

We need to be more welcoming to LGBTQ members.

Way too many regulations.

What major changes to rules & regulations is ROME willing to make in order to draw people back to the church?

Perhaps it is time for this version of RC to die, to be born again into a strong faith that acknowledges and includes females in key positions like priests, Deacons, Bishops, Cardinals & Popes.

Make all Sacraments available to all who are divorced, even those whose ex-spouses are living. i.e. do not insist on Annulments.

Priests need to be able to marry and have families.

Why can't we share our church with all our faiths in our local community who are struggling also?

All the topics about possible mass times, travel times, reasonable distances for priests to travel, staffing, etc. really cannot be addressed until we know which churches will be utilized to support the numbers in the various districts. Until we know the sites, any suggestions may need changing. The only thing I expect to remain a constant is that the priest(s) will be living in the rectory at St. Joseph's.

Any future meetings where we will be discussing options would be greatly enriched if parishioners were given copies of the program and the discussion topics prior to the meeting. Also parishioners should be given the opportunity to add items to a meeting agenda. This is a standard format that this point has not been followed.

One church might be considered for live internet coverage for those who cannot travel for mass, etc.

The rumors I have heard include a 3-church parish located in Windsor, Kentville and Bridgetown. Might there also be consideration to keep Wolfville and St. Anthony's viable with alternating weeks for Mass?

Name of parish: Wondering if the pope might grant us a name as a gift from him. We just need to ask.

Masses

Not willing to drive more than 30 minutes.(x3)

One central location. Could be televised and "Zoom" to other locations/ televised for those areas. Should be later as the elderly find it hard to come out at 9:00. Could have a Sat. night Mass at 6:00.

Weekly Mass within 20-25 minutes.

Sunday Mass to maintain my Catholic Faith.

Mass should be later in the day.

Yes, Priests should travel to give Masses.

Priest-presided each week.

How many Masses?-> 1 a week; Valley region?->1 Mass every day of the week; How far to travel to Sunday Mass?-> 20-30 min.; How far for a Priest?-> 30 min

Masses -- 1 in Berwick, anytime Sat. or Sun. as satisfy Mass requirements, travel distance should be 25 Km, one hour for Priest to travel.

Not afraid of having Communion service but would rather attend a Mass on a regular basis.

Masses -- 1 per week in Berwick; Valley -- 1 Saturday, 3 Sunday.

Masses are working well.

Travel for parish members should be less than 1/2 hour.

One Mass is bare-bones.

Mass at St. Anthony's or within 20 min drive.

At the present time parishioners are oldish. It may be difficult for some to travel by bus.

Not having Mass every Sunday.

Masses live streaming. (x2)

Working well as is but future might see fewer Masses.

Mass in Berwick, One on Sunday. Weekday Mass 1-2 times.

1 Mass in Berwick on Sunday, 1 Mass during week, 1 adoration, Reconciliation once a month.

1 Mass 9:00 AM preferred.

Mass coverage at present very good.

Masses 1/2 hour or provide transportation. Priests 1/2 hour.

Most parishioners want Communion and Community. Lay-presided services are our future.

St. Anthony's Mass too early to accommodate the disabled. Times not always convenient for working people (shift workers).

Physical Structures

One large church in Coldbrook or Berwick (geographic centrality).

More than one, less than current.

St. Anthony's has a great facility!

Physical upkeep of buildings is good - solid infrastructure.

Large church building. Meeting centre for celebrations, accommodations for visiting leaders. i.e. for leading faith formation

If we build a new central church (it) should be energy efficient & flexible.

Depending on structures & their conditions, size of parish (# of members) some buildings may need to be closed.

Cut back to 3 Churches throughout the area where Mass is every week.

Need 2 churches with at least 2 Masses on Sunday. Centralized ministries.

Buildings that are older - needing repair or costly upkeep (e.g. heating) should be considered for closure before newer ones.

When a structure is no longer paying its way it should be sold.

Who will maintain the physical structures?

As we get older we will want to be closer to our local church. Where are the retirement communities where the seniors live? (sic)

We are getting older and travelling will be an issue, e.g. winter time.

Maintain community churches.

Canning church to close.

Berwick buildings are in excellent condition and no mortgage. This facility can serve a large Parish family.

Need to know more information on one church structure.

Three churches; Windsor, Kentville, Middleton. Who can close churches? The Bishop said "I will not close churches".
What use will be made of our existing halls?

Sacraments

Sacramental prep: Baptism Team, 1st Communion & Confirmation Teams.
Sacramental prep: 30 to 45 mins to travel to central location.
One team preparing in all churches.
Same distance as Masses.
Reconciliation monthly (at least).
Travel time for sacramental prep. not eucharist (sic) 25 - 30 min.
Marriage! Is it relevant?
Ministry to those in jail.
30 minutes (x3) or provide transportation to elderly.
Depends on the individual faith and travel situation.
When parents bring their children to prepare for their sacraments, draw the parents in also; teach/train them re: different ministries.
"Bulk" (sic) Baptisms for those committed to a life of Faith for their child.
(sic): Funerals, Masses for regulars, offer Masses for others, prayers for all in Funeral Home.
25-30 kms.
Sacraments can be pooled, Mass times could be more flexible.
Sacraments in one place except Mass.
Could happen as one per year (rotating locations annually) i.e. 1st Communion, Confirmation, preparation still happens locally.
How do we compete with weekend hockey?

Staffing and Volunteers

Need more people to volunteer. (x2)
Less volunteers.
Combined efforts would be needed.
Bigger group to draw from for volunteers & staffing.
Some people liked to be asked to do a particular task, some need encouragement, all need to receive appreciation for their efforts. Ask a person to volunteer!
Keep active in our church so there can be activity to raise money, etc.
Volunteers will want to stay local.
Certain jobs currently done by volunteers may need to be contracted out, increasing expenses.
Us old folks are getting tired.
Amalgamate some of the spiritual and leadership groups.
Collaborate, centralize, expand role of Laity in all ministries. Recruitment, training retention of the Laity
Volunteers --> hospitality adds to the sense of community.
Let deacons become Priests.
We can't keep burning our Priests out.
Church needs to consider female priests. Celibacy to be optional i.e. priests may marry.
More volunteers. More information on priority for the older people.
How will folks who travel long distances be able to take part in as many programs?

What's Working Well

One Bulletin is working well.
Phone calls & emails (One Call Now) are good.
Collaboration: secretarial staff, technology, 2 Priests, Deacons.
St Anthony's would be a big lose to Berwick.
Our social outreach - Food Bank, Bundles for Babies, emergency funds.