



*The Little Church
with a Big Heart*

St. Mary of The Mission Catholic Church - Archdiocese of Mobile

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Synthesis of small group meetings

Thanks so much to everyone who participated in the small group meetings about the vision for St. Mary of the Mission's future and the needs that you all currently perceive. I now wish to share with you what I heard. Three things are mentioned with frequency and would seem to indicate future priorities. They are:

- ◇ There is a desire to continue working towards a more united community, promoting deeper relationships, greater communication.
- ◇ There is a felt need to strengthen efforts of evangelization that would lead to greater personal commitment and participation.
- ◇ There is a recognition of the need for a bigger space, that at the same time, preserves the coziness of St. Mary of the Mission.

With regards to vision, people are struck and moved by the phrase “the little church with a big heart”.

I would like to address each of these needs/priorities and the future vision. For this week, let me begin with the latter—the vision.

The phrase, “the little church with a big heart” seems to call to mind the gospel passage of the small, little mustard seed that grows to be the biggest tree in the garden where the birds find a home. It is St. Mary of the Mission's little seed of love and faith that grows into a home where the tired, the poor, the migrant find refuge. That is what I hear inspires our parish community.

Finance Committee

After listening to different recommendations, the following people have agreed to be members of the parish finance committee: Ana Calderon, Carsen Cooper and Joel Barnes I wholeheartedly thank Erenda Arce, Juvenal Garcia, Judy Odom and Bob Butson for their generous service on this committee

The finance committee met on Friday, August 20, 2021. The meeting was dedicated to the review and approval of a ministry agreement between St. Mary of the Mission Catholic Church and the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity for the pastoral services of Sister Olivia Montejano, MSBT for the year 09/21—08/22. The agreement has been sent to the Archbishop for final recommendations and approval.

Religious Education

Welcome back! Classes start this Sunday, August 29th at 11:30 a.m.

Cutting trees

In the coming days, a company will be cutting down a number of trees on the property. A few are dead and or dying and pose a danger to people and cars. One is inclining towards the church roof. The big magnolia will also be coming down. It is certainly a shame. The history that that tree has seen! An arborist from Auburn University has looked at it and says it has at the most two more years of life. Clearing these trees away will also provide some needed space for parking.

Collections

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| 7/12 | \$3,099 |
| 7/19 | \$4,200 |
| 7/26 | \$2,400 |
| 8/2 | \$4,517 |
| 8/9 | \$2,845 |
| 8/16 | \$4,252 |
| 8/23 | \$2,435 |