

**Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area Grouping #213
Saint Mark, Saint Michael, Queen of the Rosary
101 Mc Lay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037 412-751-0663**

June 17, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On October 15, 2018, our parish grouping was established with the hope that together we would build relationships with each other, share our resources, join together our ministries and work toward the official merger and creation of our new parish. I am so grateful for the many ways you have dedicated yourselves to this important work.

When we initiated this journey together, who of us could have ever imagined the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic would affect every aspect of our daily lives? I know that these have been challenging times for everyone. Learning to adapt to new ways in which we work, shop, gather and worship comes precisely at the same time we are entering into the final phase of completing the merger process.

As we live through changing realities arising from COVID-19, please know that I pray for you daily, asking our Heavenly Father to shower you with peace and hope even in the midst of many unknowns.

As we enter this final phase toward completing the merger process, our time will be marked by two significant activities:

- submitting recommendations for our new parish name
- and participating in a Virtual Parish Assembly.

Information regarding the Virtual Parish Assembly will be provided in a later communication.

But first, before those significant activities, allow me to share with you my greatest hopes and dreams for who and what our new parish will become.

May we begin with who we are, **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic**. We are a community of believers, rooted in the abiding presence of the risen and ascended Christ, centered in the Holy Eucharist, proclaiming the Gospel message and mission of Jesus, and serving in the tradition of the early church as his disciples.

Since our beginning, as a community, we have grown towards creating a new vibrant parish through combined Advisory Councils (Pastoral & Finance), shared ministries (Altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Music Ministry) and a Faith Formation Program which serves Adults, Children and Youth.

As a new parish, we will journey toward being more effective missionary disciples growing and maturing in ministries that draw us and others into the One Body of Christ.

What part of these hopes and dreams do you see and share?

A summary of the process for recommending a name for the new parish follows. Additionally, you will find two enclosures:

1. Timeline that provides an overview of the major steps needed to complete the merger.
2. Form for submitting your new parish name recommendations. Please note this form includes criteria that must be followed for a name to be considered.

Summary of the Process for Naming the New Parish

The following is the process for submitting a name for the new parish:

The submission includes two parts:

the name itself and a rationale for proposing the name.

In addition to following the criteria,

- The new parish name should be taken from Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the holy angels, a saint, or all those who are beatified.
- The current and former names of our parishes, (St. Mark, St. Eugene, St. Joseph, St. Michael, Queen of the Rosary, St. Cecilia, and Holy Cross) are ineligible to be the new name for the new parish. Also, it is preferable not to choose a name that is already used many times in the diocese (St. Joseph, St. Mary, St. Anthony, St. Benedict, Holy Trinity, Holy Spirit, etc.).
- I encourage you to consider the broader context for the name.
- What name will be a strong, vibrant indicator of who the parish is now and who this faith community wants to become five years from now?

Return the form to any parish office, through the collection, USPS (101 Mc Lay Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037) **no later than Monday, July 6, 2020.**

From the total number of names and rationale submitted, the Advisory Councils will assist in reviewing the submissions according to the criteria provided and arriving at 15 names to be submitted to Bishop Zubik for his initial consideration.

You will have one more opportunity to offer your recommendations on names for the new parish. The final list will be presented in the Virtual Parish Assembly.

Thank you for your participating in this process.

Blessings,

Fr. Wagner

Reverend Thomas A. Wagner

Administrator

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, Grouping #213

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic