

June 25, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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.

To date, numerous recommendations for the new parish name have been submitted. You still have time **to submit your recommendation** to any parish office, through the collection, USPS (101 Mc Lay Drive, Elizabeth, PA 15037) **no later than Monday, July 6, 2020.**

Summary of the Process for Naming 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 **not qualified** 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.) or used within our surrounding communities (McKeesport, White Oak or the mid Mon Valley.

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?

One final note about the new parish name. While the new parish will receive a new name, **each of our church buildings will retain its current name** (the name under which it was consecrated). A **parish** is a **geographic area** with people and a priest(s). **Churches** are **sacred buildings** designated for divine worship. Saint Eugene Church, Saint Michael Church and Queen of the Rosary Church will retain their names. In January 2021, our three Churches will come together to form a new Parish, the geographical area of Elizabeth, Forward, Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, Port Vue, etc. (basically the area made up of the Elizabeth-Forward and South Allegheny School Districts), hence the need for a new parish name.

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.

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

As we continue to move forward, my hopes and dreams for who and what our new parish will become are ever present. We begin by remembering 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 Jesus' 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.

I invite you to pray about and ponder your hopes and dreams for our new parish.

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

Thank you for your participating in this process.

Blessings,

Fr. Wagner

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic