**FAQ about our St. Mary and St. Joseph Partnership**

**Is this a merger?** No, it is a partnership in ministry. Each parish will retain it’s own name, physical facilities, and personality along with websites, newsletters and bulletins.

**How may this affect me?** What each parishioner will see is increased opportunities and more vibrant ministries.

**What about Finances?**

**Will our finances be combined?** No. Finance councils and finances remain separate.

**Will St. Mary parishioners be responsible for the cost of St. Joseph’s building project?** No, that cost will stay solely the responsibility of St. Joseph parishioners.

**What about Sundays and Emergencies?**

**Will my Mass times change?** Not at this time.

**Will our pastors remain the same?** Yes

**In case of illness or death do I still contact my own parish?** Yes

**What about Formation and Ministries?**

**What will happen to our religious education/faith formation and sacramental preparation for children and teens in each parish? L**eaders at both parishes will begin to develop a process by which families from either parish can attend the religious education/ faith formation program that best fits their needs/schedule.

**What will happen to our sacramental preparation for adults?**  Some processes like RCIA, Marriage Preparation and Baptism Preparation will also be open to participants attending according to their needs/schedule.

**How will other ministries and activities in each parish be affected?** We will each continue our programs, events, and spiritual opportunities with an invitation to the other parish to join us. Some events will be cosponsored (Chris Stefanick) by both parishes.

**What about Pastoral Staffs?**

**What will be the effect on current staffing at each parish**? Nothing changing at this time with the exception of working together and sharing best practices.

**What are the priests and staffs doing to prepare for this partnership?** Fr. Bill and Fr. Brendan are having conversations and pastoral staffs are working together to plan, discuss and vision. At this time we are holding joint staff meetings where we discuss next steps and are praying together to listen to the Holy Spirit as we move forward.

**How long will it take to see change?** Change is already happening as priests and staff are working together. As we move forward there will be more examples of our partnership as we surface all the ways in which we can serve our parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph in the best way.

**What is the Partnership Council?**

A group of people from each parish that includes six parishioners, the priest, one deacon and one staff person. The purpose of the Partnership Council will be the work of considering what activities we can hold which will engage Catholics from each community. These activities may include large group formation events, spiritual events, service, and community building fun events.