



DECEMBER 2018 UPDATES

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Merger News

The parish merger Transition Team has met twice to process the input given at the cluster meeting on October 7 at Saint Joseph Church. Your honesty and charity were a grace and has helped us to begin planning the next steps in the merger. We are grateful for everyone who was able to attend.



The transition team spent four hours reading through the fears, hopes, and ideas you shared. This has allowed us to begin a draft timeline of meaningful events, decisions, and transitions for the upcoming year. We, as a team, look forward to more opportunities to share with you and receive your feedback.

We have continually been edified by your deep love and faith. We are grateful to Deacon Chico who has been able to be very present on Sunday mornings at Saint Joseph Church. His consistent presence is a grace for the community. We each have experienced some beautiful encounters amongst parishioners at all three parishes. Thank you for journeying together as we get to know each other better and take steps in the new year.

We pray you have a blessed second half of Advent and that the peace of Christ will be present in your heart this Christmas Season.

We have taken a few actions since the cluster meeting. These are the actions taken to date:

1) A Christmas Eve Mass was added at Saint Joseph Church. This will be a special Christmas Mass with a small keepsake for people to receive.

2) A Prayer for the Parish Cluster is drafted and will be prayed after the Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses beginning in the New Year.

3) At the request of people at the meeting all fears, hopes, and ideas shared on the notecards and on the posters was typed-up by team members and shared with Bishop Sirba.

4) A book of the dead, of all deceased parishioners, is being put together by Deacon Chico and a few others. It will be buried with other items at Calvary Cemetery during the summer of 2019.

We want to share information concerning any areas of clarification. We will keep you updated to lessen any confusion. Two areas of clarification to date are:

1) All financial and other assets of Saint Joseph will go to Saint Lawrence parish. None of the funds or property will go to the diocese.

2) No decisions have been made about what will happen with the church building or the house.

Advent Outreach



13 years ago this year, Mary Pulford of Saint Lawrence donated a generous gift as a legacy for her husband. Since then, the Art Pulford Fund has been steadily dedicated to helping those in need, especially families. Father Ryan oversees the fund and works with the parish staff to help families in need.

Our parishes have been involved in many beautiful and worthwhile outreach endeavors over the years. Some have been funded from this donation. It is now time for us to think about replenishing The Art Pulford Fund so that we might continue to serve those in need in our community. This past year we have bought groceries, filled gas tanks, provided hotel stays on cold winter nights (often mothers with children living in cars).

Our other social outreach activities have included various efforts over the years. As parishioners come and go, new projects are born and others come to completion. The “Giving Tree” at St. Lawrence which has been a wonderful Christmas tradition for many years is one which has now come to completion. Two new and exciting outreach projects which affect our three communities have taken its place. One is a partnership with some local hotels that will allow us to help house people, especially women and families, who need emergency temporary housing (up to one week). The other is a partnership with laundromats that will allow us to help people do their laundry. This is an important need in Duluth.

The most exciting part of our new endeavors is our partnership with the Duluth Harbor Mission in Lincoln Park. The staff at Duluth Harbor Mission is

excited to work with us in facilitating laundry opportunities in a nearby facility for some of their clientele. In addition, the youth in our Faith Formation programs have elected to do their Advent Mission project in partnership with the Duluth Harbor Mission. Our elementary school children are collecting non-perishable food items, our middle school students are collecting cold weather gear (mittens, hats, scarves, socks), and our high school students are getting together toiletries (shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, handwipes).

We would like to invite you, all parishioners, to participate in these beautiful partnerships. You may bring in items to add to what the Faith Formation youth are collecting for the Duluth Harbor Mission (contact Karen for more information). You may make a donation to the Art Pulford Fund (contact Stephanie for more information). You may collect your quarters for laundry purposes (contact Paule for more information). The contact number for Karen, Stephanie, and Paule is (218) 722-2259.

We thank Christ for you as together we work toward a common goal of helping those in need in our parish communities.

United Catholic Appeal

We are short in all three parishes on United Catholic Appeal. Any shortfall will be met by the individual parishes reserve funds. Please, consider a contribution to help meet our goal by December 31. Beginning the weekend of December 15/16 we will be taking second collections for UCA. Thank you!

Current Shortfall:

Saint Lawrence	\$15,500
Holy Family	\$13,269
Saint Joseph	\$5,300