

Responses to Town Hall Comments/Questions on the operational structure during transition

27 May 2023

Many structural questions and concerns cannot be fully addressed until Bishop Fernandes announces his decisions. What follows is a current status of the work being done to address the concerns that have been raised. Questions/comments from the town Hall meeting have been grouped as appropriate.

Sacraments and Masses

Planned Mass schedule after Father Gideon's retirement beginning Wednesday (July 12, 2023):

St. Mark Campus

Wednesday - 5:15pm Confession – until 5:45pm

Wednesday - 6:00pm Mass

Sunday - 10:00am – PSR – combined program @ St. Mark

Sunday - 11:30am Mass

St. Mary Campus

Monday – Thursday – 7:00am Mass

Tuesday – Friday – 9:00am Mass

Saturday – 3:00 Confession – until 4:00pm

Saturday – 4:30pm Mass

Sunday – 8:00am & 10am Mass

St Mark parishioners can have their baptisms, weddings, and funerals at St. Mark during the transition period. PSR will meet at St. Mark before the Sunday Mass.

The St. Mary sound system was upgraded during recent church beautification. If needed, hearing assist devices are available in the sacristy. **The majority of** seat locations within the Basilica should provide a clear line of vision.

Registration

The process of transferring parishioner registration cannot be fully described until the decision is made to transition St Mary to a newer data base or to use the current manual procedures.

St Mark Facility

The St. Mark campus will be available through the transition **contingent** on the continued support of St. Mark and St. Mary parishioners after the merger. The campus is available to AA, Al-Anon, the Food Pantry and other organizations currently using the facilities. St. Mark is available for retreats held during the day, through the transition period.

As long as the grounds are available and purpose of use is approved, outdoor property is available.

St. Mark has adequate outdoor lighting and a camera system but does not have an alarm system. Continued use of property will warrant additional security measures when supervisory staff are not on property.

Parking at St Mary

A diagram of available parking in the area surrounding St. Mary is available. Father Eilerman, Beth Snoke and Paul Martin - Lancaster City Service Safety Director are collaborating to determine additional handicap parking spots and locations.

Finances

The management of St. Mark's financial resources will remain at St. Mark through the transition period – currently June 30, 2024. Resources will be co-mingled once the parishes are fully merged. We are investigating the capability of the management software to track operating funds and money at the Catholic Foundation (including Snyder Fund) specific to St. Mark. The continued use of the St. Mark campus is contingent on the support of the combined parishes.