

GROWING OUR PARISH

IDEAs to INCREASE MASS ATTENDANCE

As summarized from the 'town hall' meetings held on 12/9 at SHC and on 12/10 at SPN and from the Idea Sheets submitted by parishioners in the pews

1. MARKETING

Place our church bulletins and other outreach material in area stores/gas stations (provide also in Spanish)

Provide Mass schedule and information on church activities, welcoming people to come, on website, bulletins, signage and in other outreach materials; also special attention to Spanish speaking migrant workers and residents in our area.

Improve and Create Signage:

Bigger signs at church buildings with Mass times, include phone #, website and email

Place directional signs at intersections on NYS Rt 23, 30 and 10

Place signs in locations throughout Stamford. Also in Grand Gorge, Roxbury, Prattsville, etc

Advertise Church activities as open to the public - food pantry, women's guild, prayer groups, Knights of Columbus, Rosary Society and our social events - in mailings, in newspapers, in bulletins

Get our website to 'pop up' in a google search – instruct every parishioner on how to do a daily internet action so we begin to 'pop up' automatically

Put signs on Parish Hall doors and inside on the walls of the Hall, telling Mass times, etc. for people who are using the Hall for other purposes (funerals, pantry, etc.)

2. OUTREACH

Mass mailing to all in nearby zip codes

Make contact with missing parishioners

Make regular contact with parishioner High School graduates

Develop more participation in church music roles, including via outreach to local schools; establish a Children's Choir

Sponsor area Catholic youth to NCYC (next NCYC is in CA on 11/14-16, 2024)

Place Faith Formation info in bulletin and out to all parishioners

Hold 40 hour devotions

Distribute Lent, Easter and Christmas prayer and meditation 'Little Books'

Welcome newcomers with a simple registration form and a welcome information package

3. INCREASE SOCIAL/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES (& advertise these as above)

Feast Day celebrations every year at each church

Regularly use SPN church for various events/activities and adoration, etc.

TV events at Parish Hall

Bingo

Pancake breakfasts or lunches or dinners after Mass

Sponsor Community Meals (either BYO or prepared by church vols) – also consider chili contest, pie contest, etc.

Church Bazaars (at Christmas, Easter) (can include games for children)

Participate in annual Stamford Tag Sale Day

Sponsor hikes or walk events – for prayer time together in movement and/or as a fundraiser

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Respect Life clothing drive, school supplies drive

Hold and advertise 'Blessing Events', e.g., food at Thanksgiving Mass, ornaments for Christmas, animals on 10/4

4. SERVICES NEEDED

Rides to Mass for parishioners

Rides to Mass for migrant workers and their families

Cooking for the Sick

Visits to Shut-ins and disabled

Get more church volunteers/members: Parish Council; Ushers; Counters; Building and Grounds; Lectors; Eucharistic Ministers; Altar Servers

Create a 'Children's Space' at our Masses

5. IDEAs to HELP PARISHIONERS & COMMUNITY

Rides for parishioners to medical appointments

Sponsor Tai Chi classes for health and safety

Sponsor Art Murals on our walls or in town

Services for the Homeless

Clothes box

6. OPINIONS TO IMPROVE OUR MASSES

Diminish chatter before Mass

Improve music

Don't have music after Communion, don't have music during Offertory, so parishioners can hear Priest's prayers

Teach about what actually is going on during Mass

More use of 'traditional prayers' (Latin)

More Statues of Saints

Sponsor/hold Charismatic Mass

Sponsor/hold Latin Mass