

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

676 W. Lockwood Ave.

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www.mqpwg.org



Sunday, October 23, 2022

Dear Friends,

#1. Deacon Peter will be leading a Sunday morning Bible Study. The first meeting date is Sunday, Nov 6 beginning after the 8am Mass and concluding before the 10:30am Mass - the perfect time for a little faith enrichment. The group will meet in the Holy Family Room, which is the meeting room on the first floor of the school building directly across from the portico entrance of church. The Bible Study's topic is "Through Scripture, We Find Rejoicing in Suffering". If you would like more details, you can contact Deacon Peter directly at peterpham@kenrick.edu.

#2. Our All Things New Parish Listening Sessions have been completed. My thanks to Sanford Mosby, our facilitator from St. Justin the Martyr parish in South St. Louis County, for our Key Parish Leaders for their efforts, and for all who attended. We received a lot of information about the possible future of our parish and our Archdiocese. Thank you for participating and for providing feedback; it will help the Archbishop and his team to make the final decision. Remember that you have between now and the end of the year to offer constructive feedback. Please go to <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/> for all kinds of detailed information and to offer that feedback.

I do want to speak to one particular issue related to All Things New. Several comments were made at the Listening Sessions and I've gotten this question during other conversations/meetings: "Why can't MQP be 'left alone?'"

I have a few thoughts on this: we are called as Catholics to live in community; and communities are and can be diverse in many ways. We are a universal (i.e. Catholic) Church, founded by Jesus. We are challenged to continue to move forward and grow in faith and holiness and to serve others. To be "left alone" would mean not joining others, not being welcoming to those who would join us, and silo ourselves. To be "left alone" means we would not help our neighbor, say "not in my backyard", agree that work needs to be done but ask others to do it. To be "left alone" means to exclude and shun others. We are one body and as St. Paul says, the hand can't say to the foot, I don't need you because you are not a hand (cf. 1 Cor 12). We are followers of Jesus Christ, members of His Body, not devotees of bricks and mortar and neighborhoods and "people like us".

From a practical standpoint, our demographic, financial, and Sacramental trends indicate lean years, and maybe even decades, ahead. We have several hundred thousand dollars' worth of deferred maintenance that keeps getting deferred (some projects deferred for a 10 years now!). Our school is not self-sustaining, which takes money away from our parish. Catholic education is so very important, but it is only one ministry of our parish. There are so many more things we could do if we had more manpower, financial resources, building space, and human investment. Every aspect of our worshipping and communal life could be enhanced by the All Things New process. Every aspect of our parish life, and every Apostolate, including our school, could be enriched, cultivated and sustained by All Things New. If all 180 parishes

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and schools in the Archdiocese asked “Why can’t we be left alone?” then nothing would be new, the trends would continue, and our children and grandchildren would wonder why we didn’t try to do Some Thing New.

We have a better chance of continuing and leaving a legacy of Faith and Community with All Things New than without it. This is bold statement, I know. And only God knows – so let’s pray that our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of God and for ALL the good of His people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.”

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