



## **St. Rose of Lima Church**

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Over the past couple of years St. Rose of Lima Parish has been working toward building engagement among parishioners, increasing the faith of the community, and reaching out to Catholics who are not regular members of our parish. We used various strategies and initiatives such as parish missions, Strengths Finder, and Faith Studies. It appears we have increased faith and engagement within our community but have yet to successfully reach marginalized Catholics within our community.

In 2012, in response to the Archbishop's Pentecost Pastoral letter we went to one Sunday morning Mass "to have the largest possible assembly of parishioners to celebrate Eucharist together". One Sunday Mass was intended to be a short term change. Our hope was to fill our church to capacity and then return to two Sunday Masses that are well attended. Fulfilling this hope will be the visible sign that we are successfully reaching out to the community.

In the upcoming months we have an ambitious agenda of activities to boldly go forward. You've heard me speak about exploring the possibility of building a parish hall, of completing a parish census, and of participating in Transformation activities in response to the call of Pope Francis. We can only move forward with this agenda with significant participation of many parishioners.

Why these activities? Are we leaving behind all that we've done in the past two years? These are questions that may be in our minds and hearts. These activities are all interconnected and connected to the activities of the past several years.

**Parish Hall:** We currently lack space for us to gather as community for activities other than sacraments. A parish hall can potentially open up new and exciting opportunities for our community. The future of St. Rose of Lima parish can include a vibrant space to minister to youth, to study our faith, to support activities of all parish groups, and help us reach out to the whole community.

**Parish Census:** The information gathered through the census will inform us of Catholics who live among us but do not worship with us. It will help us to understand current and future needs of our community and inform planning for a hall and Catechetics to name just two. We need to know who we are, who we can become, and what it will take to get there.

**Transformation:** "is a participatory process with the principal aim of realizing 'the missionary aspiration of reaching everyone' (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel). Therefore, the feedback from each small group is a critical component of this process. This feedback will allow us to see, both locally in the parish and collectively as a diocese, the key themes and directions to which God is calling us." (Archdiocese website) Five people from St. Rose of Lima parish took part in the initial workshops and are preparing to lead groups of parishioners through this process.

Each of these initiatives is being led by a team of committed parishioners who will need your help in the following ways:

Parish Hall: The committee exploring the parish hall asks that each parishioner think about the future of this parish and imagine the next five to ten years. What will we need to be a vibrant community ten years down the road? The committee wants to hear your ideas and will speak again to all groups and ministries as well as all parishioners to solicit feedback. Please identify a time that your group would like to meet with them and advise the contact person.

Census:

- Approximately 30 area captains will be needed to coordinate the many people needed to knock on doors and take the census.
- Census takers – we will need several people in each of the 30 areas to complete the census in a reasonable timeframe
- Trainers – We need a consistent approach, consistent messaging and commitment to privacy. We will need trainers who can develop and deliver short training sessions to the people doing the census.

Transformation:

We are looking to all committees, ministries, choirs, Catechetics, and groups within the parish to be represented in the six workshops that will take place on Monday evenings beginning February 17<sup>th</sup>. We also want to reach out to all Catholics who want to be more engaged and involved in their faith. This is your opportunity to impact the transformation of our church.

This is a call to ACTION. It is time to share the fruits of the work we've done in the past couple of years and build for the future. The leaders of the three initiatives will need participation from a large number of parishioners to complete these three initiatives. I ask each of you to examine your strengths, your work/life experiences and respond with a commitment to contribute in the way that you can.

Contacts:

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Parish Census    Eric Whebby      880-7090

Transformation    Dave Riel        576-3027

Sincerely,



**The Very Rev. Duncan MacMaster**  
**Pastor**