

Star of the Sea Catholic Church Parish Council Discernment Process

This weekend we begin the process of selecting two additional members for the Parish Council. In order for Star of the Sea Church to continue to be a vibrant community of faith, we must have dedicated, visionary people answering the **call to serve** on the Parish Council. The Council is the advisory body for the Pastor and his staff. It identifies the needs of the Parish, studies and reflects upon the needs, makes recommendations to meet those needs, and assists the Pastor and his staff in the implementation of Diocesan pastoral directives and programs.

The process for the selection of the Council members meets the Diocesan guidelines. Rather than a direct election, which may result in selection based largely on name recognition, we name our new Council members through a process of discernment that enables us to learn more about each other as we seek the will of God. *Through the Discernment Process those named will select from among themselves the two additional Council members using group prayer, discussion, and reflection.*

STEPS IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

- 1. Parish Naming – January 14/15 & January 21/22.** All parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider and nominate those whom they think have the gifts of servant leadership needed for the Council. Surrounding the liturgies on these dates, parishioners are asked to name fellow parishioners whom they think are particularly well suited to serve as Council members. You are also encouraged to nominate yourself if you feel you are called to serve. Prerequisites for serving on council are listed on the Naming of Parishioners Form.
- 2. Parish Naming Ends – January 24.** The last day to submit names for those who may be interested in serving on Parish Council.
- 3. Nominees Notified – January 25.** The Parish Office will email/mail letters to those who have been nominated to participate and meet the requirements for the Discernment Process.
- 4. Nominee Acceptance – February 1.** The last day for those parishioners interested in participating in the Discernment Process to notify the parish office.
- 5. Orientation – Friday, February 3, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Those participating in the Discernment Process will attend a short retreat along with a presentation and discussion on the role and workings of the Parish Council.
- 6. Day of Discernment – Saturday, February 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Those participating in the Discernment Process will meet and use the discernment process to prayerfully reflect on the life of the Parish, come to know what it means to serve on the Parish Council, and select from among themselves the two prospective Council members to be recommended to the Pastor.

The selection of Parish leaders is **NOT** a race or a contest. To serve as a Parish leader is to **answer a call** – the traditional meaning of election in the Church. The leadership ministry is a response to the needs of the people. It is a gift the Lord has called many to exercise for the benefit of others. Each of you is asked to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit to consider the gift of being **Called to Serve** – either ourselves or someone else. If you are named, please be open to the call.

**STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL**

NAMING OF PARISHIONERS FORM

Parishioners named will select two additional members from among themselves to serve on the Parish Council. Term is for 3 years.

Parish leaders should have the following characteristics:

- Enthusiasm about the future of the parish;
- Flexibility and openness with people and ideas;
- Oral/written communication skills;
- Critical and analytic thinking;
- Collaborative thinking, relationship building and teamwork; and
- An attitude of servant leadership.

Those named must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a registered member of the Parish for at least six months;
2. Be at least 18 years old; and
3. Be able to attend regular Council meetings.

Please list the names of those parishioners you wish to suggest for membership on the Parish Council. They will receive an invitation to participate in the discernment process. **You may name yourself.**

Names will be accepted until **January 24** at the parish office.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Please return your list of names in one of the following ways:

- Give this form to the Parish Council member in the Commons area after Mass; or
- Return it to the Parish Office; or
- Fax it to the Parish Office at 757-428-0788; or
- E-mail names to our parish secretary, Grace: grace@staroftheseaparish.com.

If you have any questions about this process, please call Rick Valente or Jim Billing at the Parish Office.