

Last month we shared some things that our parish is doing that are directly related to topics raised at our March "In This Together" gathering. This week we have more to share! Does this information help? Does it raise more questions? Let the Parish Advisory Council know! Email us at pac@stjosephmech.org.

✦ Do we truly UNDERSTAND THE MASS or are we just going through the motions?

Monthly Pre-Mass Teaching Elements: By now, everyone has noticed that we have a short welcome at the beginning of each weekend Mass. We provide information to help newcomers feel at home, and we invite everyone to greet those they'll be praying with and for during the liturgy. But you may not have noticed that once a month, we add a "teaching element" to these pre-Mass announcements.

- In June we heard how the pause following the initial "let us pray" at Mass is intended for us to recollect and offer our personal intentions.
- In July we learned about the history and significance of genuflecting.
- In August and September we focused on the entrance procession and the dismissal.

This is all the result of a goal in our parish's 5-Year Plan to offer teaching elements on the Mass. Rather than a class that may be attended by 25 people, we decided to offer small, timely bits of information to the 1200+ people who attend Mass on the weekends. An added benefit of this approach is that the information is offered just in time to see it in action.

What do you think? We'd love to hear your opinions!

Visit stjosephmech.org/5-year-plan **Contact:** Parish Advisory Council at pac@stjosephmech.org.

✦ We should be ASKING PEOPLE what they need from the Church.

Opportunities for providing input: Saint Joseph asks for input via parish surveys (last completed in 2018; next scheduled for 2023), homily feedback forms (available at stjosephmech.org/homily-feedback and from ushers at Mass), and on specific topics like our recent evangelization and daily Mass schedule surveys. Additionally, our Parish Advisory Council encourages questions and comments both via email and at meetings. Let us know what you think! **Contact:** Parish Advisory Council at pac@stjosephmech.org.

✦ We need to engage in POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS about faith.

Evangelization Survey: We're in the process of conducting a parish-wide survey to better understand everyone's thoughts and experiences about talking about faith.

This survey will remain open through October. Once we've read through your input, we'll develop ideas to help all of us share the faith in simple, practical ways. If you haven't already completed the survey,

please do -- either by scanning this QR code, or by picking up a printed copy at the Welcome Kiosk in the Narthex. **Contact:**

Suzanne Brugza at 717-766-9433 or evangelization@stjosephmech.org.



Skills for Bridging the Divide Workshop:

This free class, hosted by Saint Joseph's Respect Life Committee, was conducted in September, offering attendees techniques for having productive conversations, especially with those who see things differently than we do. If you missed the class but would like us to schedule it again in the future, please let us know! **Contact:**

Deacon Auchey, Respect Life Committee chairperson at 717-766-9433 or deaconsteven@stjosephmech.org.

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