

The Saint Mark Church Pastoral Council

Who We Are and What We Do

The Saint Mark Church Pastoral Council is a 9-13 person advisory board to the pastor. Nine are elected (three year terms) from among registered parishioners. The pastor may choose to appoint up to four additional members (one year term). Annual nominations and elections occur during the spring. Saint Mark Church seeks candidates who will help the Council represent the diverse liturgies and people in our church.

The Pastoral Council is a singular way to get involved with the life of the church, where a member participates in the inner workings of a dynamic, challenging Parish blessed with abundant talent and treasure. A member has a unique opportunity to contribute to critical services, like education and outreach, or to help develop the worship experience for the benefit of all parishioners.

Many have asked, *What is the function of the Council in the life and direction of Saint Mark Church? What does the Pastoral Council do? What are the requirements for serving on the Council? Who is on the Council?* First and foremost, the Pastoral Council seeks to follow and be guided by our Parish Mission Statement and the annual Parish Plan.

The purposes and objectives of the council are:

- *To implement and restate, when necessary, the mission of Saint Mark Parish.
- *To set annual goals in fulfillment of the mission and to formulate plans to meet them.
- *To monitor the execution of Parish plans and programs and evaluate their effectiveness.
- *To encourage, facilitate, support and provide liaison with the parishioners and parish organizations and activities.
- *To work in union with the pastor and the Parish Finance Council to oversee financial and physical resources, consistent with the mission and goals of the Parish.

What does the Council do?

Each Council member provides a valuable conduit between parishioners and the Pastor in the furtherance of the Parish Mission. The Pastoral Council meets ten times per year on the first Tuesday of the month. The Pastor and the Council discuss issues and hear reports about current issues and projects within the Parish. The primary purpose of the Council is to accept

responsibility, as a collaborative and consultative body, with the pastor for the life and mission of the Church in the parish. In addition to attending the monthly meetings, Pastoral Council members serve as liaisons to the working committees of the Pastoral Council. Our current Pastoral Council Liaisons are:

Spiritual Enrichment/Liturgy

Evangelization

Social Outreach

Finance/Facilities

Special Projects and Focus (i.e. Year of the Rosary, Year of the Priest)

What are the requirements for serving on the Pastoral Council?

The principal requirements for candidates are a heart for service and a willingness to give of one's time. Any Roman Catholic who is leading a life in harmony with the church, is at least eighteen years of age, a member of St. Mark Parish and has received the Sacrament of Confirmation is eligible for election to the council.

Who is on the Council?

The current Pastoral Council includes members who recently joined our parish as well as longtime parishioners. Their professional backgrounds vary greatly. Their roots represent a wide geographical footprint of the United States and beyond. Each member has a commitment to Saint Mark Parish Community. There will be nine elected members on the Council at any given time. Three parishioners are elected each year to replace those members whose three year terms are expiring. Up to four additional members may be appointed by the pastor for one-year terms. Pictures and names of current members are located in the Parish Life Hall.

Pastoral Council Meetings and Minutes

Meetings generally take place in Room 3 and begin at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of January and August, when there will be no meeting. Items to be considered for the agenda should be submitted to the Parish Council Chairperson one week prior to the scheduled meeting for their discussion and review. The Pastoral Council minutes are available for review in the parish library. Minutes are formally approved at the following Pastoral Council meeting.