

# Naming a New Parish

One of the important next steps in preparation for merging our three parishes into one new parish is the naming of the new parish. To assist the ACC planning team in submitting three names to Bishop Neary for consideration, the ACC planning team has developed the following procedures:

- 1) Inform parishioners through a bulletin insert the weekend of Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Allow two weeks for parishioners to submit possible names to the planning team.
  - You can bring them to the office, place them in a basket on the hospitality desk, or simply email Marie Melland at [marie@isantiacc.org](mailto:marie@isantiacc.org).
  - Names need to be submitted by Monday February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) The planning team will narrow the new parish name submissions to 10 names for a vote by parishioners who have received the sacrament of Confirmation. These names will be printed in the February 22<sup>nd</sup> bulletin.
- 4) This vote will take place the weekend of February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are needing to vote absentee, please email Marie Melland.
- 5) The top three names will be submitted to the planning office for Bishop Neary's consideration. Keep in mind, Bishop can choose a different name than we have submitted if he chooses.
- 6) The top three names will be announced at Mass the weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 7) The planning office has asked that this process be completed so that the decree for merger can have the new parish name listed on the decree.

Acceptable names for parishes – as noted in *Nominando creaturas*.

The names of our existing parishes are not eligible for the name of the new parish. However, the names of each of our church buildings may not be changed without special permission from Rome (c. 1218), and diocesan leadership does not intend to seek this permission or change the name of any church.

Because of long-standing custom in the Diocese of Saint Cloud and the religious character of parishes, even when the parishes do not bear the title of a church in their territory, they should nevertheless be named after a sacred person or mystery. Therefore, a parish may only be named after the Most Holy Trinity; Our Lord Jesus Christ, invoked under a mystery of his life or under his name as already used in the Divine Liturgy; the Holy Spirit; the Blessed Virgin Mary under a given title already found in the Divine Liturgy; the holy Angels; or a Blessed or a Saint inscribed in the Roman Martyrology.

\*For a complete copy of *Nominando creaturas*, please visit our website, [Isantiacc.org](http://Isantiacc.org).