

East Lethbridge

Catholic Parish Assessment Project

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary
Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
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DIOCESE
of Calgary

Background

- Evolving needs of the East Lethbridge Parish
 - Changing demographics of parishioners
 - Escalating maintenance costs for current Church buildings
 - Inadequate parking and access to some buildings
 - Insufficient space for pastoral education programs and religious formation

Background

- Assumption and St. Patrick's parish twinned (2001)
- St. Basils, Assumption, and St. Patrick's form a new combined parish of All Saints (2006)
- Process of consultation and planning for a new All Saints parish church site and building (2007 – 2023)
- St. Patrick's church building suppressed (2014)
- Closure of St. Patrick's (2016)
- Bishop-Emeritus Henry retires (Jan, 2017)
- Bishop McGrattan appointed (Jan, 2017)

Background

- A community group, opposed to Church closures was formed in (2011) and they initiated a canonical appeal process to the Congregation for Clergy which was denied (2017)
- This denial was appealed to the Apostolic Signatura (2018)
- Pastoral Visit of All Saints Parish by Bishop McGrattan (2018)
- Written decision from the Apostolic Signatura (Mar 2021; Nov 2021)
- Written Guidance from the Congregation for Clergy (Nov 2021)

Pastoral Needs

- Following the decision from the Apostolic Signatura and in acknowledgement of the significant time that has elapsed (2001–present):
 - There is now an opportunity for a renewed consultation process to assess the future pastoral needs of East Lethbridge and for the parish to:
 1. Review and address current and future pastoral realities facing All Saints Parish
 2. To heal and be united in the path forward in meeting current and future pastoral needs of the parish

The Project

- East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project (September 2022)
 - It will be a comprehensive consultative process in which the Parish is to recommend both a strategy and implementation plan to the Bishop with respect to:
 - Requirements for dedicated church space to meet the needs of the parish
 - How the future pastoral needs of East Side Lethbridge and surrounding areas will be met by the parish

The Project Mandate

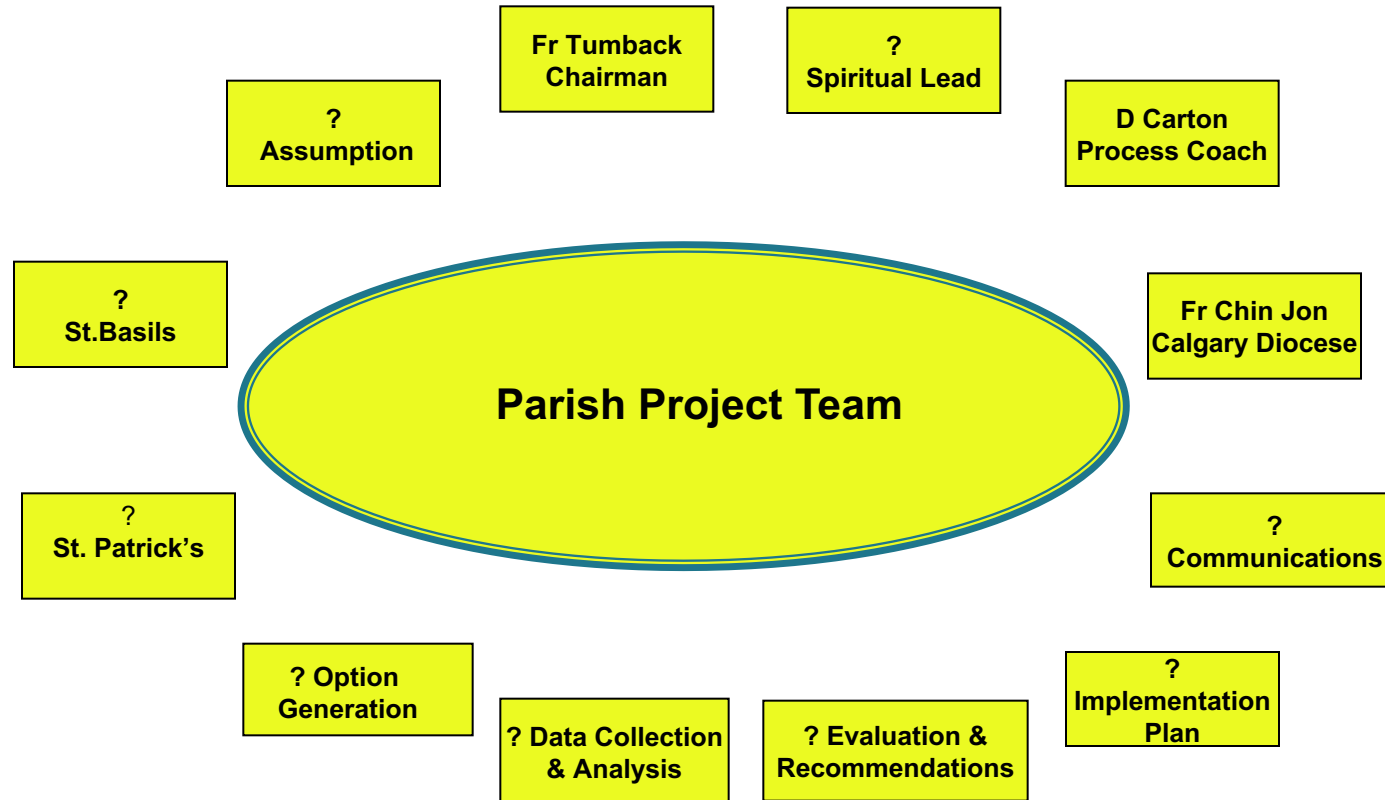
- Research, review, prayerfully discern, and recommend an East Lethbridge Parish Assessment Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Establish realistic options, priorities, goals, evaluation criteria, metrics and key communication messages
- Develop and execute a Project Detailed Action Plan that will be transformative, timely and sustainable for the parish community and stakeholders

The Project Structure

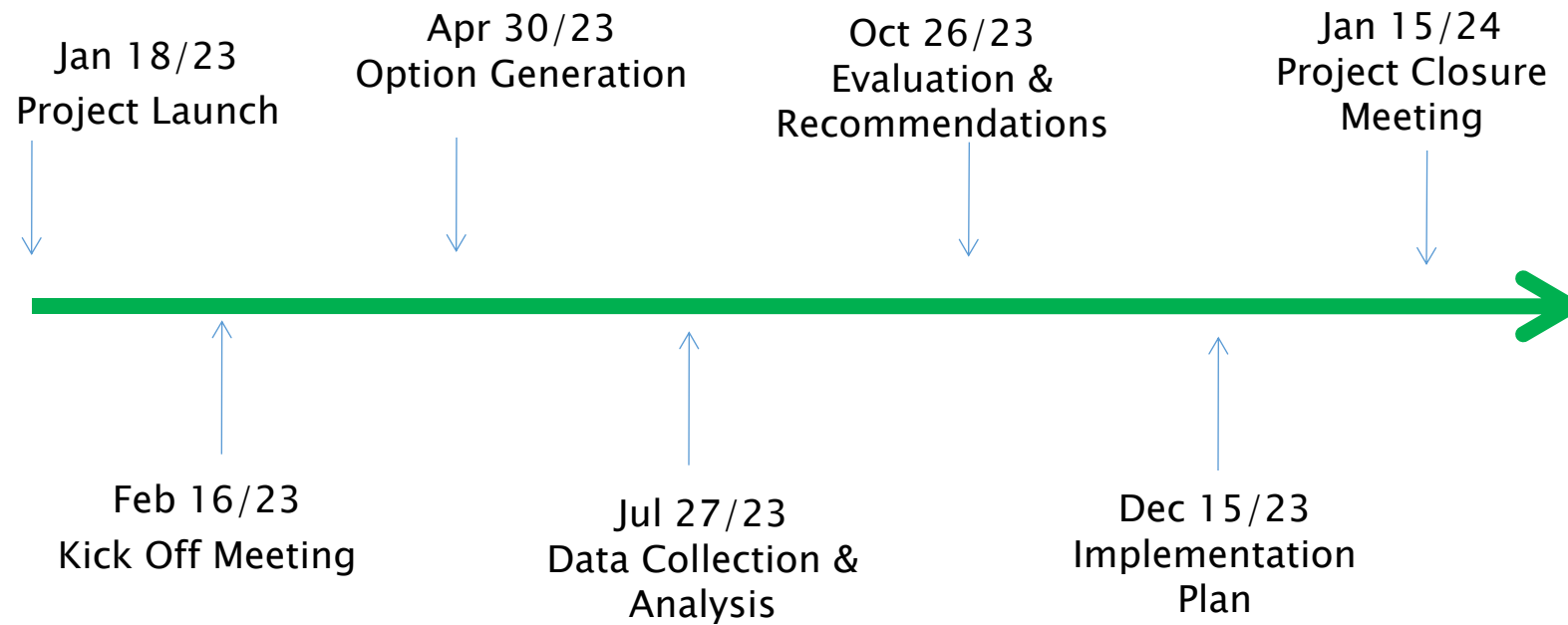
- Parish Project Team
 - Parish Leadership
 - Pastor
 - Chosen lay persons
 - Moderator of the Curia
 - Process Coach
- 4 main subcommittees
 - Option Generation
 - Data Collection & Analysis
 - Evaluation and Recommendations
 - Implementation Plan



East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project – Working Committee



The Project Timeline



Project Key Messages

- As Church we are called to be united in the witness of our faith, to be one in Christ, one family of God
- We realize that with the Diocese facing a convergence of financial challenges and changing pastoral needs which have evolved in recent years, new steps or processes of consultation are required with members of the parish and community on next steps

Project Key Messages

- As part of these efforts, parishioners will be invited to engage in a comprehensive consultative process with the goals to assess and recommend options to the Bishop that will ensure dedicated church building space that will meet the current and future pastoral needs of East Lethbridge Parish and that of the entire Diocese

Project Key Messages

- As an immediate next step, we will act upon the decision of the Apostolic Signatura to re-open St. Patrick's church building based on the guidance from the Congregation for Clergy
 - Holy Eucharist must be celebrated at least twice per annum
 - On the titular feast day (i.e. March 17) and on the anniversary of its dedication (i.e. September 24)
 - St. Patrick's must be open for private prayer at least on occasion

Next Steps

- Determine Parish Project Team for East Lethbridge Catholic Parish Assessment Project
- Launch Project Kick Off Meeting by Feb 16
- Detailed action plan that will meet legislative requirements for re-opening of St. Patrick's Church as directed
- Determine frequency of “on occasion” for prayer at St. Patrick's Church