

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

Section 1: Parish Vision and Mission: Inspired by Saint Joseph we welcome all by sharing our Christian faith.

How is our parish doing in realizing the vision of Jesus Christ for our parish or its own mission statement?

1. Appear there is a good start considering Father Dave's enthusiasm to make a difference. But feel we do not have large "young" parishioners to support the change and participate.
2. It's only just beginning.
3. Members are very nice, friendly, and share.
4. It's just starting. Virus is having negative impact.
5. Now okay
6. Positive progress from changes to date. The current health situation has temporarily slowed / stopped some of those changes but we are united in wanting to continue that work.
7. My great grandparents came from Holland and Belgium. I grew up strict Catholic farming family. I've known about Jesus and Mother Mary my whole life. I visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help often. I am not attending Mass due to age but watched Bishop Ricken's Mass [on] TV thru this Covid-19 and now listen [to] Relevant Radio Mass at Cathedral – listen to Bishop Ricken's homilies. Jesus has and always will be a part of this church. Past history and older members when Father George Lenzner was pastor followed Jesus more then than now.
8. No response
9. Welcome person / person. New members to be aware all ministries available. Ushers do good job.
10. I think our parish is doing a lot of good things, but if we do not get more people coming to Sunday Mass, it will be very difficult to justify keeping the parish going.
11. I think we are improving.
12. I think we've come a long ways and the future looks more promising for our parish.
13. As a newer parish member I have been impressed by the sense of community I feel at the parish / church. I really love the idea of the Catholic Worker House / gardens. For years I have felt our church should be more active in our locality's needs.
14. No response
15. Ok
16. Struggling in current circumstances. We were struggling before. We need to open back up and thrive. Folks can make their decisions to attend or have a "mask only" Mass. We were below 25% before this started!
17. In my opinion, we all, who can, follow the teachings of Jesus through volunteering, sharing of gifts and participating.
18. Making progress by reminding us that being a Christian and a Catholic is far more than attending Mass. We need to reach out and share our faith with acts of kindness and giving.

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

Do you have any suggestions for our parish to better live out its mission statement?

1. No response
2. No
3. No response
4. Nothing extra to add from Pastor's vision plan and ?
5. Need to let the parishioners know what is discussed at all the parish meetings (council / finance / worship, etc.)
6. No new suggestions at this time but I feel confident that as we continue with the new programs and direction, we will come up with more ideas and opportunities.
7. Sure. Bring back the church picnic where Catholics and non-catholics came together. The calendar fund raiser is gambling and oppose raising money by gambling.
8. No response
9. I very much enjoy adult learning but somewhat restricted – eg – 2 sessions [per] year. Fall and spring. Daytime. Seeking God
10. No response
11. We just have to keep on pushing forward.
12. Not at this time.
13. These ideas are a great start to living the mission of the church.
14. No response
15. No response
16. Reach out to local community more – Centennial Center, Ecumenical Council, etc. We also need to be better stewards across the Diocese and parishioners. Combine parishes and survive.
17. Praise the children more. They are our future.
18. Patience and persistence. The Covid-19 virus has slowed progress. Increase in communication, both written and social media, has been outstanding.

How is the pastor of the parish doing in helping the parish realize that vision and mission?

1. He is dedicated and trying to make a change.
2. He is making a great effort.
3. It's nice how Father greets people before Mass.
4. Good. Pastor is doing a lot to re-engage parishioners and revitalize the parish.
5. Bringing new people on the committees. Pastor needs to be open to councils / committees in their discussions.
6. Good leadership by example and teachings, and encouraging involvement.
7. I do not know. I started attending Mass [at] other parishes in the area where I felt the homilies I connect with more. Take St. Willebrord Parish – the people are so friendly and homilies I connect with. Nativity, too, and so cultural diversity. Now when a change in priest may make a difference but people check their bulletins out. [I] only attend St. Joseph about once per month.
8. No response
9. Doing great job looking at whole picture – realizing decisions need to be made. Continue [Thursday / Friday] Masses. Eucharistic Adoration.
10. He is trying hard, maybe too hard, to come up with ideas and solutions to increasing attendance and participation.

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

11. I think the Pastor is doing a terrific job. Our parish has been at a “stand still” for so long it’s going to take time to get us on the right path.
12. I think Father Dave has a vision of what we need to do to better worship God and to keep the parish financially stable.
13. Father, I have been so impressed with your vision of the parish “in the community”. Your leadership can help St. Joseph’s become a shining star in the diocese and the Oneida community.
14. No response
15. Pastor has to realize he is dealing with mostly older people, that change is a bit hard after years of different teaching.
16. Father Dave is pushing and challenging to move forward. We need engagement and execution to grow. Current state is a death blow.
17. Change is hard. It doesn’t have to indicate it’s bad. His ideas are new and bold. Again, not negatively. Intellectually, he knows and has his vision. Communication may interfere with fruitful results.
18. The Pastor is the driving force in all areas of parish operations. My one suggestion for improvement is to not interrupt people when they are speaking. The best thoughts may go unheard because people hesitate to continue once they’ve been cut off.

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

Section 2: Letter from Pastor:

List any questions, thoughts, suggestions or other comments about anything in this letter.

1. In reference to our buildings:
 - 1) Good idea to consolidate offices
 - 2) If trying and successful to grow the parish, do not think a good idea to “sell” adjoining land
 - 3) Has “Habitat for Humanity” or donation to other groups (Restore) [been] considered for buildings?
2. Father’s proposal that we turn the unused buildings into St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Worker House sounds very interesting.
3. We are grateful for all the volunteers and employees at St. Joseph. Bless all of them.
4. Rectory preferences. Try to sell first. Second, [demolish] it and garage and sell land. Third, Catholic Worker House. If office moves to church / school building, what is plan for the old office building?
5. Would like an actual breakdown of the wages in the different groups of employees
6. I have been a member of the parish going on 20 years and raised my youngest child here after moving to the area. I want to respect the history of our parish and the families that have grown up here for generations. It would seem to be a good idea to make a decision on the best use for the rectory, sell it or not, or the possible use to the community and parish as a Catholic Worker House, helping others.
7. I served on Parish Council when Father George Lenzner was pastor. He had lots of money put away. He got most everything that needed fixing...etc. donated by members. Money was available in hardship to members. I served on social concerns, did baskets [of] food Thanksgiving and Christmas. Father approved who to give to. St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton sponsored a Bosnian refugee family who are Catholic and were being persecuted in their country. Did thru diocese. I helped Andrea Sabor teach confirmation classes for two years. I was a Eucharistic minister.
8. None
9. Sounds like many hard / tough decisions. Hate to see buildings sold off. Amazing piece [of] real estate Gone Forever. Leasing sounds like good option and help folks in need – not idle.
10. Regarding the rectory and Lenzner Office Center: We believe it would be wise to keep possession of all the parish land at this time. If it comes to the point where the parish is closed, then the diocese can sell it or whatever at that time. One suggestion for the use of those unused buildings would be a child care center for parish members’ children. If the parish is totally unable to repair and properly maintain them, then tear them down or sell them, even if you don’t profit from them. But keep the land.
11. I will just pray that the people in charge will make the right decisions for our parish and people.
12. The one thing I would like to see but not sure how to make it happen in today’s world is to attract more young families to attend Mass and get involved in church activities. I like the idea of the Catholic Worker House.
13. We would like to work with the parish to re-establish our Christianity in our personal lives and share that Christianity with our neighbors.
14. Sell Rectory. Survey according to what buyer may like.

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

15. No response
16. Maintaining old buildings is a challenge on limited resources. The Worker house is a good idea if we can do it. Cost neutral and no liability. We need to get Faith Formation restarted and revitalized! Selling land is one time thing – doesn't prevent the inevitable.
17. No response
18. I really like the suggestion for the former rectory, and the efforts to reach out to our indigenous neighbors. But I feel strongly we should find a way to keep the current Lenzner Center as a viable option for a rectory should the parish ever need one. The Finance Council could research a fundraiser to make it habitable.

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

Section 3: Needs and Service to Parish:

Do you have any needs or know of anyone who has needs that are not being met by the parish at this time?

1. No
2. No
3. No
4. Not at this time
5. Did anyone see Gary Seidl at Shepherds, Inc. when visitors could go in? Do those who are home bound or in nursing homes / assisted [living] receive weekly church bulletins and letters?
6. No
7. We had food collection stored at parish and those in need, reached out to Father George in the area. Then some in church decided to be given to Oneidas and disband from church. Father would say those on these councils did more to not help others. The dignity of those needing help was kept confidential. Those in need were given gas cards [to] local gas stations, help [with] utility bills. Magazines and items given to prisoners [at] Honor Farm, Oneida. After Father George retired, thing went awry. And Father George made arrangements prisoners attended Mass at St. Joseph.
8. Not at this time
9. I have no needs. Feel parish should somehow stay connected to folks who can no longer show up. Cards? Visits?
10. No response
11. Not at this time
12. Not at this time
13. I can use prayers as this pandemic goes forward as I have found myself lacking in faith, hope, trust and charity as this becomes a prolonged issue.
14. No response
15. No
16. No response
17. No
18. We must find a way to engage young families and our youth.

Is there any way that you would like to be of more service to the parish in leadership or another way? Or, do you know of anyone who would be good in leadership?

1. In my years, been in or [led] all councils for many years. Also in choir and RE, usher, minister, scheduler. At 70 years old and just retired in June, still trying to decide best service to fulfill.
2. Not at this time
3. No response
4. No response
5. A few years ago, Scott and Lori Muench wanted to be more active in our parish. Maybe they still would be interested in some capacity.
6. I signed up for the St. Vincent de Paul Society when it was started at our parish but at the time had not been able to participate, knowing I would be as summer progressed. I would like to help with that, and am also available if anyone needs help with shopping or other needs due to being

St. Joseph Parish Survey (July, 2020)

homebound. I have talked to Mary about this so she is aware. Fundraisers: no new ideas at the time but like to help with those.

7. I donated my time over many years in various ways up until the church put those looking for money, money, money. Those in charge of money when Father George retired did not know how to vision present and future needs. Father George got people to donate their talents in trade off at times if they could not afford church dues for their help. I ceased all involvement [with] church and pay more church dues as money became more important than those in need and those helping with talent. Now I just want to attend Mass in peace [and pay my dues and do not want to be involved. Will stay home from Mass until virus goes away]. I do not have a fancy computer nor go on FaceBook. Not all members have nor want that – to me big security risk. I heard about 7 people complaining funeral on that and no sound so.....
8. No response
9. Personally willing to help – follow, not lead. Participate.
10. No response
11. I will do what am able to do...mostly pray for Father Ruby and our parish family, and that those who are able, will step up and help.
12. Not at this time other than being on the cleaning team.
13. 1) I would love to be involved in any activities that directly affect our local community (elderly, unemployed, under employed).
2) Myself and my wife would love to work with the Catholic Workers gardens or any community gardens.
14. No response
15. No
16. I'm becoming Trustee already.
17. No response
18. We should target more "worker bees". Most people want to help but not necessarily be in charge.