

St. John's Strategic Plan September 2020

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St John's Pastoral Planning Process (2019-2020)

1. Assemble pastoral council, finance council reps and members of various parish committees to begin planning process (Spring 2019)
2. Gather feedback from parish community (survey) (Fall 2019)
3. Organize feedback into current goal areas and discern new meta-themes, common threads and concerns (Fall 2019/Winter 2020) ---Schedule meeting to inform Strategic Planning committee.
4. Parish Council revised mission, vision and goals. (Spring 2020)
5. Send to individual committees to develop strategies and priorities (Spring/Summer 2020)
6. Review committee goals and strategies. (Summer 2020)
7. Parish Council approve strategic plan. (Fall 2020)
8. Communicate strategic plan to wider parish community (Fall 2020)
9. Offer a Parish Mission (Fall 2020)

**Parish Survey Executive Summary
12.11.19**

This document provides the top responses to some of the survey questions.

Opportunities parishioners would be interested in:

Opportunity	# of responses	Additional information needed
The Saints/The Blessed Virgin Mary	36	4
Prayer/Spirituality	36	7
Scripture/Bible	35	3
Social Gatherings	34	3

Ways to make it easier for people to participate:

Theme	# of Responses
Specific days of the week/specific times	37
Childcare	13
Transportation	3

What makes you feel welcome or unwelcome at St John's?

Welcome	Not welcome
Fr Remi	Feel lonely, ignored
Greeters	
Parish	

Have you experienced something at another mass or parish that you would like to see at St John's?

Themes
Music
Second Sunday Mass

Best way to communicate information:

Type	# of Responses
Email	56
Bulletin	54

St. John's Catholic Church Mission, Vision and Goals

The Mission of St John's parish is to...

love God, love neighbors, share the Gospel and build the kingdom of God.

Vision

As a Catholic community, St. Johns' parish will help all people encounter Christ by:

1. Witnessing to Christ through our daily lives
2. Nurture lifelong faith through recognizing, developing, and sharing our gifts
3. Celebrating the Sacraments
4. Supporting and enriching small faith communities

Goals:

- **Worship and Spirituality:** We will strengthen, nurture, and enhance the sacramental and liturgical life of our parish.
- **Community:** We will strengthen our parish by creating a welcoming and inclusive community of faith.
- **Faith Formation:** We will nurture lifelong faith formation
- **Service/Evangelization:** We will witness to Christ through word and deed within our parish and beyond

Worship and Spirituality

Goal: We will strengthen, nurture, and enhance the sacramental and liturgical life of our parish.

1. **Objective:** To provide ongoing formation for all Liturgical Ministry roles
Strategy: Continue to invite / encourage adults to get involved
 - Messages in Bulletin, on Web-site and announcements for the need and Training Sessions availability.
 - Engage Youth and Teens to become involved in Ministerial Roles
 - Visit HS Class and Faith Formation Classes
 - Demonstrate appreciation of our Liturgical Ministers
 - Recognize & Bless at Masses
 - Breakfast or gathering for recognition
2. **Objective:** To provide opportunities for a variety of spiritual experiences
Strategy: Opportunities for study of sacred & spiritual enrichments
 - Study on the lives of Saints and Mary and / or Bible Study
 - Offer Parish Mission event every two years
 - Make known and more available the books we have for loan and study
3. **Objective:** To enhance the weekend liturgical experience
Strategy: Continue to increase youth and adult participation
 - Question & Answer or study session on the Mass
 - Blessing / Anointing of Sick and/or a Healing Mass
 - Schedule through Father / Office Home Masses once again
 - Support the expansion of weekend Mass opportunities

Community/Fellowship

Goal: We will strengthen our parish by creating a welcoming and inclusive community of faith.

Objective: Provide opportunities for parishioners to interact and grow as a faith community.

Strategies:

- Provide on line, via House Party, and in person (after COVID) fellowship to include Game Nights such as Scrabble and Trivia, Card Nights
- Coffee/ donuts after Sunday Mass
- Name tags on Saturday/Sunday Mass
- Newcomer Breakfasts
- Attending the Des Moines Community Playhouse productions
- Movie Nights Out (perhaps purchase and outdoor projector for Family Movie Nights)
- Provide personal invitations to newcomers to participate in events
- Follow up when people submit items to the prayer chain to see if they need help/acknowledge the issue
- Develop a Trunk or Treat activity in the fall
- Continue involvement in Community activities: Sweet Corn parade float, Food
- Pantry, youth activities
- Investigate the possibilities of a Mission Trip and forming a Women's group

Service / Evangelization/Works of Mercy

Goal: We will witness to Christ through word and deed within our parish and beyond

Objective: Living the Corporal Works of Mercy within our parish and beyond

Strategy: Provide fundamental and basic needs of food, drink, clothes and shelter

- Support the food pantry, clothes closet and crisis intervention center
- Seek opportunities to give time and/or resources to helping homeless and refugees
- Continue reaching out to schools to help support the needs of students
- Provide Christmas to those in need by coordinating the 'Giving Tree'
- Support participation in the CRS Rice Bowl collection during Lent
- Support the vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups through outreach in our parish and community

Strategy: Visit the sick and imprisoned

- Support the bereavement ministry
- Take Communion to the homebound
- Grow the prayer chain
- Provide meals and support to those in need
- Support and serve prison ministry opportunities
- Raise awareness, educate and provide support to individuals and families in the area of mental health
- Offer support groups for individual and families as needed

Strategy: Support the dignity of human life from conception to natural death

- Contribute to local pro-life agencies
- Support homes for single moms and families
- Share Catholic teachings on the dignity of human life

Faith Formation

GOAL: Nurture lifelong faith formation.

1. **Objective:** Provide our adults with opportunities, platforms and programs to deepen and share their faith with their children and others while building the domestic church.

Strategies:

- Develop and offer a Catholicism 101.
 - Create Small groups with common interests (e.g. gardening, running, service, music) that will act as a bridge to Faith Based Discussions and groups.
 - Provide on-line/virtual programs and resources for adults (Model after the intergenerational Faith Formation program from Ss. John and Paul in Altoona)
 - Invite parents and other adult parishioners to “come and see” and engage in the Faith Formation classes and activities.
 - Develop and deliver a “Mass Minute” before each mass. These would be one-minute learning opportunities to inform WHAT we do at Mass and WHY we do it. These can be recorded to share online.
 - Offer a weekly scripture study led by the pastor.
2. **Objective:** Empower our young adults with a foundational knowledge and love of their Catholic faith so they will be strengthened and inspired to live and continue to grow in their faith.

Strategies:

- Adopt a curriculum for the youth ministry and Confirmation (e.g. Life Teen program) and encourage parishioners to come and share their knowledge/gifts.
 - Offer small group (e.g. TOB) opportunities (led by parishioners/youth) to encourage discussion and relationships with their Faith.
 - Schedule a monthly youth-led 3rd Mass on Sunday evenings.
3. **Objective:** Nurture our children and youth in building a relationship with Jesus within a Catholic Faith community.

Strategies:

- Utilize age-appropriate Diocesan approved Religious Education curriculum firmly grounded in Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Intentionally provide opportunities to help our children and youth practice our Faith and build the connection between the Universal Church and Domestic Church (e.g. Finding God Curriculum Application)
- Develop and express Catholic Identity through prayer, sacred scripture, Sacraments, and service.
- Help children and youth come to understand that they are created in the image and likeness of God (through TOB/virtue/dignity of life instruction).