



## WHAT IF \_\_\_\_\_ ?

This is the task of the safety committee. We fill in the blank with situations that could arise during mass that would pose safety concerns.

What if a tornado came during the homily?

What if a parishioner started experiencing chest pains just before communion?

What if a brief ice storm coated the parking lot and sidewalks with ice during mass?

What if a fire broke out in the electrical room?

What if..... yes we discuss all the situations.

Are we prepared? What is our evacuation or relocation plan? Who is taking charge?

While we have had emergency response plans in place for several years for all of these situations, at the advice of the Diocese we had an outside advisor come in and audit our plans and policies. This audit did reveal a couple gaps in our plan.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to fill these gaps.

- 1) Where are your expert volunteers seated during mass?
  - a. St Johns has many parishioners who are professionals in the medical fields. Nurses, Doctors, first responders etc. But if the need arose during the mass do we know where they are seated and who they are.
    - i. **If you have medical or first responder experience, AND are willing to be called upon if the need arises.** Please contact the parish office to become a volunteer. In addition we ask you to identify yourself as you enter the church and advise the usher where you will sit and your willingness to be called upon. In the near future we will have a reserved pew near the entrance. We may or may not make this one of the ministries (lector, usher). That decision we will discuss with the volunteers once we have a group established.
    - b. We will establish a similar set up for security experts in the future.
- 2) Who is in charge? While we currently rely on the ushers to take charge the audit revealed flaws in this idea.
  - a. In early 2021 we will be establishing a Safety ministry. This will consist of 2 people at each mass that are NOT ushers, and NOT part of the ministry for that mass. The responsibilities of this ministry is still being defined, we anticipate this to be an “arrive early and leave late” ministry. Make sure the parking lot, sidewalks and building are ready for parishioners. Monitor during mass and act accordingly to situations as they arise. Ensure parking lot and sidewalks are ready for exit traffic, secure building before leaving. Please contact any of the safety committee members below if you are interested in serving on this ministry or have any questions.

What if – YOU want to join the safety committee? We are looking for one or two new faces on the safety committee. Please contact the office if you are interested. We meet 7 PM the first Thursday of Feb, May, August, and November. During COVID we have been meeting every month.

Safety Committee: Mike Mensen, Steve Kofmehl, Paul Hoffman, Randy Oberembt