St. John Vianney Catholic Church

PRIORITY PLAN
2019 to 2022

Awaken Our Faith,
Build Community,
Form Intentional Disciples
Dear parishioners and friends of St. John Vianney:

Antoine Exupery, French poet and author of “The Little Prince,” once said, “A goal without a plan is a wish.” I think that statement to be absolutely true.

Jesus has given us one great goal – the same goal as he commissioned the Apostles: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world.” (Matt. 28:19-20)

Pope Francis teaches us that “each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the ‘peripheries’ in need of the light of the Gospel,” (The Joy of the Gospel, #20).

As a very active, faith-filled community, we do take seriously Jesus’ mission of reaching out with the light of the Gospel. We also must reach out intentionally. Having a plan to do so is vital.

For the past six months, the Parish Council, along with the Parish Priority Planning Committee, has embarked on a process for our parish that outlines our goals and objectives for the next three years. I thank the many parishioners who offered input through the survey this past September. We have carefully weighed our priorities.

This will be the guiding document for all decisions made at a staff level. It will also guide the Parish and Finance Councils, as well as all parish ministries and groups, in their work. There are so many ways of sharing and reaching out with faith. That's why it is important to prioritize and plan.

I am asking that you peruse this document carefully so that you know the direction of our parish. We have so much going for us and we continue to receive God's grace in abundance to make it happen.

Thank you for your commitment to St. John Vianney. May we continue to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the mission of Jesus to make intentional disciples. After all, the Church does not have a mission. Rather Jesus’ mission has a Church!

In Christ,

Fr. Jim
Our Sacred Purpose

The mission of St. John Vianney Church, a faith community inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to bring all God's people closer to Christ in the community of the Church by spreading the Good News through active, dedicated ministries committed to: prayer, active liturgy, a deepened understanding of the faith, sharing the faith with our children and others, and active social justice and Christian service.

The Values that Guide Our Community

Welcoming, Prayerful, Active Liturgy

- We will greet and acknowledge the presence of those around us at Masses and other parish events.
- We will promote an inviting environment to increase parishioner participation in the life of the parish.
- We will foster a culture of encounter where the invested, the inquiring, and those on the margins meet Christ.
- We will deepen our personal relationship with Christ through intentional times of prayer each day.

A Deepened Understanding of Our Faith, Sharing Our Faith with Our Children and Others

- We will share in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
- We will share our personal relationship with Jesus Christ through our loving interactions with others.
- We will inspire faith by providing a variety of formation opportunities so all can fully participate in the life of the parish.

Active Social Justice and Christian Service

- We will speak out for the many in our world whose voices are not heard.
- We will strive to serve all of those in need in our parish, our community, and our world.
- We will make annual commitments of our time, talent, and treasure to enrich our spiritual lives.
- We will promote the prudent use of our financial resources both personally and as a parish.
The Vision that Ignites Us

Awaken Our Faith • Build Community • Form Intentional Disciples

As we implement this pastoral plan, St. John Vianney Church will give thanks to God for how the Holy Spirit is working in our community, making us disciples of Jesus. We will ignite and strengthen the faith of those we encounter by being a welcoming parish that embraces the diversity of our community. As a parish, we will demonstrate our willingness to share our unique gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Others will witness our deepened personal relationships with Christ and recognize our firm belief that God has provided us with every blessing. St. John Vianney Church will support an increase in the number of active parishioners seeking to deepen their faith. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, our actions will awaken faith, build community, and form disciples.

Our Pastoral Priorities for 2019 to 2022

Priority: Youth & Young Adults

• **Goal:** 75% of youth (ages 5 to 18) involved in three or more activities each year by January 1, 2022.

• **Goal:** Establish a young adult ministry with other parishes in our deanery to reach out to Catholics in their 20s and 30s by January 1, 2022.

Priority: Sharing the Love of Christ to the World

• **Goal:** Have 75% of registered households involved in one or more acts of outreach/service annually by January 1, 2022.

• **Goal:** Build and grow upon the Diocesan Vision 20/20 plan for evangelization.

Priority: Discipleship in Our Community

• **Goal:** Establish five annual whole-parish spiritual growth enrichments by January 1, 2022.

• **Goal:** Have 500 or more adults participating in at least one formation event annually by January 1, 2022.

• **Goal:** Improve parish communication and information.
Youth & Young Adults

Oh, how deep, how complex, how mysterious, and how beautiful is our faith in Christ Jesus! From the time we are born, until the time we die, we are called to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ; we are called to become saints who live eternally with our Lord in heaven. As an expression of love for each person, St. John Vianney Church desires to share our greatest treasure, Jesus Christ. This conversion after encountering Christ happens as we fill our minds and hearts with Word and Sacrament, as we weigh all of our decisions against the fundamental question: Is this making me a better disciple of Jesus Christ on the path to heaven or not?

Goal: 75% of youth (ages 5 to 18) involved in three or more activities each year by January 1, 2022.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Recruit additional parents and other volunteers to engage in our youth programs, on going.
- Enhance our New Parent Program by sending cards on the baptismal anniversaries of all children who are baptized in the parish, beginning with those baptized during the last five years, Fall 2019.
- Send graduation cards to all graduating high school seniors, beginning May 2019.
- Create a speaker series for high school students surrounding issues of the faith, exploring modern issues through the lens of Catholic theology, Fall 2019.
- Plan an annual summer mission trip for high school teens, Summer 2020 or sooner.
- Create a ministry to reach out to teens with prayer partners, cards, or care packages throughout their years in college, Winter 2020.
- Explore seasonal intergenerational faith formation experiences for families, Spring 2020 or sooner.
- Add annual high school mini retreat focused on “successful high school journey”, Fall 2019.
- Add annual parent mini retreat that mimics the high school retreat, with adult team leadership, Fall 2019.

Goal: Establish a young adult ministry with other parishes in our deanery to reach out to Catholics in their 20s and 30s by January 1, 2022.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create a committee to explore a deanery-wide program for young adults, Fall 2019.
- Research successful young adult programs throughout the county, Spring 2020.
- Build up a city-wide program for young adults including socials with clergy, Fall 2021.

Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

1 Timothy 4:12
St. John Vianney Church has a desire to develop a tradition where Jesus Christ is encountered in all people. As a community of disciples, we must foster a culture of encounter where the involved, those who are not involved, and those who do not yet know our parish find a welcoming community where faith is ignited and strengthened. In all that we do, we must break down walls that divide us, connect people with one another, and see that, in a united community, all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us.

Goal: Have 75% of active households involved in one or more acts of outreach/service annually by January 1, 2022.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Evaluate our current service and outreach opportunities, creating a committee to oversee all efforts, Fall 2019.
- Explore new, and strengthen current, opportunities for families to participate in outreach and service as needed, Fall 2019.
- Recruit and create “Parish Helper Teams” of parishioners who are willing to volunteer with raking, snow removal, painting, cleaning, or other household tasks that can be called upon when a need arises, Spring 2020.
- Establish a neighborhood program in which households gather neighbors and friends in a social setting, with a member of the clergy present, to get to know parishioners. These events could happen sporadically, over the course of months or years, to create relationships and/or encourage fallen away Catholics on their faith journey, Spring 2021.

Goal: Build and grow on the Diocesan Vision 20/20 plan for evangelization.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

- Create a group of leaders to attend the Convocation in June 2019 for Vision 20/20, Spring 2019.
- Grow our annual Called & Gifted program each fall.
- Establish opportunities for parishioners to learn more about what evangelization is and how it can be part of their daily life, Spring 2020.
- Create a series of ongoing courses to build up the knowledge of our catechists and assist them in their teaching, Fall 2020.
Discipleship in Our Community

Our Blessed Mother lived her life in a spirit of fidelity and service and responded generously to God’s call to be the Mother of Jesus Christ. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, offered His life out of love for us. Taking the model of Jesus Christ and His mother, Mary, we at St. John Vianney Church desire to be generous with our time, talent, and treasure knowing that everything we have belongs to God. Filled with hearts of gratitude for all that God has blessed us with, we will work to build up our families and His Church through what we have been given.

Goal: Establish five annual whole-parish spiritual growth enrichments by January 1, 2022.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

• Create regular opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, beginning Lent 2019.
• Create an annual parish speaker, musical production, or other event each year, before or during Lent, to guide our studies and discussions during our Lenten small groups, Lent 2019.
• Create an annual Lenten Spiritual Program for the community in addition to Stations of the Cross, Lent 2020.
• Gather the community together to celebrate (spiritually and socially) the feast day of our patron, St. John Vianney, on or about August 4th. Starting Summer 2020.
• Establish an annual, half or whole day men’s and women’s retreat program, Fall 2021.

Goal: To have 500 or more adults participating in at least one formation event annually by January 1, 2022.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

• Expand our annual Christmas gift (book) into a parish-wide book study, including an email campaign, regular bulletin articles, and two or three discussion meetings, Winter 2019.
• Invite speakers who can talk about “Current Issues and the Church” [Church Matters] topics to facilitate discussion surrounding various issues happening in our world today, including marriage, cohabitation, poverty, immigration, end-of-life issues, same-sex attraction, gender identity, and more, Fall 2020.
• Establish a semiannual (Fall and Lent) small faith community program within the parish, Fall 2021.

Goal: Improve parish communication and information.

Some of the important milestones and strategies that will aid in the fulfillment of this priority are:

• Establish additional volunteer drives throughout the year to encourage parishioners to help with ongoing service and outreach needs, Spring 2019.
• Implement the Parish Commission Structure (one commission each season), outlined in our parish constitution, to better serve the needs of our growing community, beginning Spring 2019.
• Update parishioner contact information in our parish census software to ensure we have accurate and up-to-date phone numbers, emails, addresses, and family names, Fall 2019.
• Revamp our parish stewardship beyond an annual campaign, January 2020.
• Establish an annual scheduling process to be more intentional about the events that are happening throughout the year, Spring 2020.

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

Matthew 9:9
Awaken Our Faith, Build Community, Form Intentional Disciples

Priority Plan Leadership Team