

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



8/1/2019

Strategic Pastoral Plan 2019

St John the Baptist Parish is a Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois. Since being established in 1867, we are called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through charity, prayer, sacraments, and the Communion of Saints.



# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

## 2019 STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLAN

Dear Friends in Christ:

In 2015, the Diocese of Joliet released a framework for pastoral action that focuses on the initiatives of discipleship, evangelization, and charity. Its overall theme is “Go Out and Make Disciples,” and it urges all Catholics to reach outside their church doors as part of their ministry efforts. Every parish in the diocese has been asked to implement the framework for pastoral action.

The Parish of St. John the Baptist in Winfield, Illinois, was established in 1867 and is a parish in the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois. The Code of Canon Law defines a parish as “a certain community of Christ’s faithful stably established within a particular Church, whose pastoral care, under the authority of the diocesan Bishop, is entrusted to a parish priest as its proper pastor” (can. 515). When speaking about the parish and its mission, Pope Francis has reminded us of the need for self-assessment, renewal, and evangelization:

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be ‘the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters’. This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 28)

Pope Benedict XVI also spoke of the Church as the instrument by which souls are lead to Christ: “The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance” (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, April 24, 2005).

This pastoral plan, organized by the pastor and the parish pastoral council, is not exhaustive but is a tool to help the Parish of St. John the Baptist to remain focused in its mission of leading people to Christ.

In Christ,



Rev. Matthew Pratscher  
Pastor

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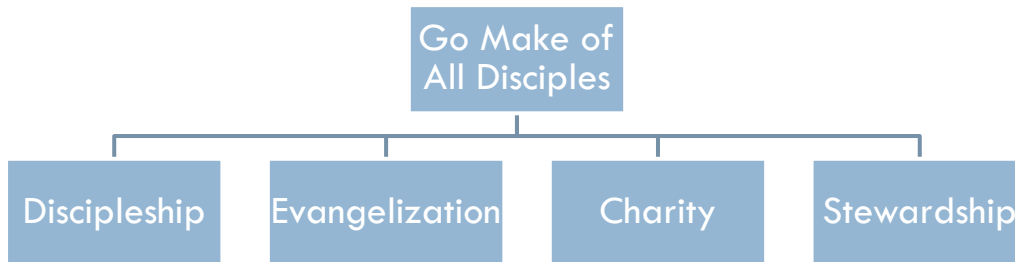
## OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES 1 | ONE

### Mission Statement

**“The Lord has anointed us to proclaim, ‘Ecce Agnus Dei, behold the Lamb of God,’ behold the Good News of Jesus Christ.”**

St. John the Baptist (SJB) Parish is a Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Joliet. Since being established in 1867, we are called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through charity, prayer, sacraments, and the Communion of Saints.

Our mission will be accomplished through concentration in four key areas as recommended by the Diocese of Joliet:



### Our Vision

**“Go Make of All Disciples!”**

### Our Values

St John the Baptist is a generous and welcoming parish community that is formed by the Catholic faith and the intimacy of a small town environment. These values are exemplified by our charitable services, Catholic traditions, and our continued participation in Winfield and the surrounding community.

Over 150 years of history that grounds us in our traditions as a Roman Catholic Parish embedded in the greater Winfield area:

Our Chapel | Our School | Our Role in the Civic, Social & Service Life of the Community

## OUR PILLARS DEFINED 2 | TWO

### Discipleship

- Encountering Jesus Christ within and through the Church.
- Cultivating our own Catholic faith, reaching out to others, sharing our faith and providing encouragement.

### Evangelization

- Sharing our joy in Jesus Christ.
- Proclaiming and witnessing Christ and His Gospel, intending to deepen the faith of believers and inviting others to be baptized and initiated into the Church.

### Charity

- Placing our actions at Christ's disposal and allowing Him to multiply what is given.
- Using our abilities to care for our brothers and sisters, to give them a voice, and to share Christ's love.

### Stewardship

- Implementing responsible use of parish resources:

Human | Physical | Financial

*Strategic Imperatives:*

*All significant liturgical, educational, ministerial, charitable, administrative, and parish life organizations are to contribute to the setting of goals and objectives.*

*Goals and objectives will be reviewed, updated, and revised on an annual basis so as to keep the Pastoral Plan fresh, relevant, and effective.*

*The Pastoral Plan will be shared with the Parish in order to engage all parishioners in a collective effort to accomplish the Parish Mission.*

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 3 | THREE

### Discipleship

- Foster an environment where people discover and encounter Christ's presence through a strong community, the sharing of faith, and participation in the activities of the parish.
- Expand the Adult Faith Formation programs and opportunities to engage a wider group of parishioners.
- Increase participation in liturgies and the sacraments.
- Inspire young adults to greater participation in the life of the church and in leadership roles.

## Evangelization

- Build a welcoming and vibrant parish environment through a more varied and purposeful use of communications mediums.
- Develop and implement initiatives to reach out to non-practicing Catholics, particularly young adults and the greater Winfield Community.
- Enhance the catechesis and increase the enrollment in the parish school, religious education, and youth ministry programs.
- Raise the visibility of St John's as an active and vital member of the Winfield Community.

## Charity

- Promote greater participation in St John's service ministries which support those in our communities who are in spiritual, physical and financial need, as expressed by the words of Christ in Matthew 25:31-46.

## Stewardship

- Invest in church and chapel facilities to maintain and improve their sacred character as well as the physical amenities for the purpose of sustaining a high level of parishioner devotion to the liturgy and the sacraments.
- Develop and conserve parish financial resources to fully support proper condition of the physical plant and operation costs of the parish.
- Increase donations supporting school, religious education, and youth ministry operations.



## ORGANIZATION AND MINISTRY SPECIFIC GOALS 4 | FOUR

**These goals are to help implement the above-mentioned objectives.**

### Adult Faith Formation Committee

- Develop coordination and synergy among existing adult faith formation programs
- Communicate the existence of programs to parishioners and encourage greater participation in these programs
- Develop new programs and resources as necessary to
  - Provide catechetical support/resources for formation programs
  - Fulfill evangelization initiatives
  - Meet discerned catechetical needs among parish segments and areas where currently under-served

### Evangelization Committee

- See an increase in Mass attendance by 10%
- Build a strong, family-centric parish community
  - Increase College and Career Group engagement, targeting young adults in or just out of college and young adults working (single or married)
- Engage with and develop a greater involvement with Winfield
- Collaborate with other ministries in fostering an environment that helps people connect with the faith and the parish

### Finance and Administration

- Perform a campus-wide facility condition assessment and develop a schedule to address needs accordingly
- Build a reserve of the amount of 1 year's operating costs
- Deposit 2% of year-end surpluses in the Capital Improvement Account

## Jr. High and High School Youth Ministry

- Help our youth develop:
  - Trust in Christ and the Church
  - Spiritual curiosity in the Faith
  - Spiritual openness that allows true change and conversion of heart
  - Desire to spiritually seek the means to transition from passive follower to active believer
- Build number of teens enrolled in the high school program.
  - 10-12 by end of 2019
  - 20-25 by end of 2020
  - 40-45 by end of 2021
- Hold an average of 6 youth events per month.

## Parish Life Commission

- Re-energize the Commission functions to
  - Coordinate all Parish Life activities
  - Incorporate greater Hispanic community involvement
- Create new activities
- Boost attendance at events through more effective parish communications

## Parochial School

- Increase participation of school families in parish life by 10%
- Increase enrollment by 5% each year
- Increase the number of students who have met estimated growth targets in Total Math, including computation, by 10% and Reading as measured by the Iowa Tests
- Increase operating revenue earned through fundraising by 10%
- Improve the exterior and interior appearance of the school

## Religious Education

- Increase Mass and sacramental participation for students and families in the program
- Increase the number of students enrolled
- Assess and develop Religious Education standards and curriculum
- Increase the number of catechists involved in the program
- Achieve 100% compliance of formation and training hours for catechists
- Assess and develop pedagogical resources for the catechists

## Service Commission

- Encourage greater participation in charitable ministries
  - Hold an annual Ministry Fair
  - Publish regular news updates and requests for volunteers in the bulletin and website
- Support the development of additional ministries and organizations as needs are discerned

## Worship Commission

- Enhance the spiritual and liturgical environment of the church, especially the sanctuary
- Increase the number of greeters at Masses
- Recruit more liturgical ministers, especially altar servers