

# ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE

# PASTORAL PLAN



## **St. John the Apostle Parish Mission Statement**

The Catholic Community of St. John the Apostle Parish commits to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, nourished by the Eucharist, guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in prayer. Together we continue the mission of Christ through  
Evangelization, Discipleship and Charity.

## **La misión de la Parroquia San Juan Apóstol**

La Comunidad Católica de la Parroquia San Juan Apóstol se compromete a vivir las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, alimentada por la Eucaristía, guiados por el Espíritu Santo y con raíces en la oración. Juntos continuamos la misión de Cristo a través de la evangelización, discipulado y Caridad.

2019 - 2024

**DISCIPLESHIP | Cultivate lay discipleship / personal encounter.**

<b>Task or Action</b>	<b>Strategy / Result</b>	<b>Step(s)</b>	<b>Commission</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Improve the effectiveness of the Parish Pastoral Council	Seven commissions led by Pastoral Council members: Faith Formation, Parish Life, Worship, Building/Environment, Hispanic Ministry, Administration/Finance, Outreach	Update parish organization chart. Continue to use commission reporting system.	ADMIN	Keep updated
Support community building with parishioners.	Parish Survey completed in May 2017. Results released October 2017.	Evaluate results to set priorities.	ADMIN	2018-2019
	Parish Directory completed and distributed.		ADMIN	Completed 2017
	Hospitality Sunday	Continue	PARISH LIFE	As scheduled
	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	Continue	ADMIN	Annually
	Parish Picnic	Continue	B & E	Annually
	Discuss need for parish census.	Create a census plan	COUNCIL	2021
Improve parish infrastructure	Improve parish gathering space (inside – narthex area via improvements and cleanliness)	Create committee to review and make recommendations.	B & E	Ongoing
	Create meeting space	Ministry Room Rehab	B & E	Completed 2018
	Church sound system/wifi improvement	Library, Hall, Classrooms, Church	B & E	2021
	Create a plan for needed parish capital improvements.	Establish a new priority timeline.	B & E	2021
	Roof replacement on west end of building	Get estimates and vendor lists from Diocese	B & E	Completed 2019
	Parish Hall Kitchen improvement	Create plan, get permit, vendors	B & E	2020
Support women in their faith lives and increase involvement in parish ministries.	Actively recruit the women of the parish to participate in CCW and retreat programs.	Provide information and personal invitation.	PARISH LIFE	Ongoing
Support men in their faith lives and Increase their involvement in parish ministries	Men's Ministry -- Servants of St. Joseph the Worker	Group established - meets once a month	PARISH LIFE	Ongoing
	Worked to recruit new members for the Knights of Columbus.	Continue to recruit new members	PARISH LIFE	Ongoing
	Encourage vocations to priesthood and the diaconate.	Publish information for vocation and diaconate information days.	PARISH LIFE	Ongoing
	Support men in their faith lives --	Recruit more men for the parish Men's Retreat at Bellarmine.	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
	Support men in their faith lives --	Publish information on spiritual programs for men, such as <i>Fishers of Men, That Man Is You</i>	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
Improve communication tools to inform parishioners –	Website upgrade to Parish Pal	Continue to update content	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Inform parish of Deanery and Diocese events	Include Deanery Calendar link on parish website and a link to the Diocese website.	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Maintain website calendar	Enter events and locations in a timely manner.	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Improve parish bulletin	Need Deanery section, formatting improvement	ADMIN	Ongoing
Develop a small prayer group program throughout the parish.	New task. Choose program. Recruit/train group leaders.	Introduce program to parish	FAITH FORMATION	2021
Recruit and educate Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Homebound as well)	Call to Ministry Weekend, bulletin articles, interest sheet	Continue efforts.	WORSHIP	Ongoing
Support the Legion of Mary Ministry	Actively recruit new members using personal invitation, bulletin articles.	Hispanic Legion has a strong membership. English Legion needs more members.	HISPANIC MINISTRY / PARISH LIFE	Ongoing

<b>DISCIPLESHIP   Inspire young adults.</b>				
<b>Task or Action</b>	<b>Strategy / Result</b>	<b>Step(s)</b>	<b>Commission</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Work closely with the RE Director to support the catechists and students.	Offered First Communion and Confirmation Retreats with speakers.	Planning, speaker selection	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Annually
Work with RE at other cluster parishes to offer a combined Confirmation Retreat.	Offered a combined Confirmation retreat with St. Joseph (2016).	Will look for other opportunities to combine our RE youth -- Community Service Project?	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	As opportunity arises
Create a Teen Group for young adults (8th grade and older)	Offer an initial program and invite teens to attend in order to find out how many teens are interested.	Find facilitator(s) for this group and set up regular meetings.	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	2021
Improve Altar Server program and recruit additional servers.	Developed a server schedule, trained additional servers, and completed a fellowship event.	Continue to recruit and train servers	WORSHIP	Ongoing
Offer program for teens that includes <i>Theology of the Body</i> .	New task.	Resources through Formed. Also through	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	2021

<b>DISCIPLESHIP   Embrace Immigrant Catholics.</b>				
<b>Task or Action</b>	<b>Strategy / Result</b>	<b>Step(s)</b>	<b>Commission</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Offer RCIA in Spanish (year round)	Trained catechist and have two catechumens in the program.	Continue to offer and promote.	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Ongoing
Offer monthly Baptism Prep class for Spanish speakers.	Offer Baptism Prep in Spanish. Number of baptisms has increased.	Train additional leaders.	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Ongoing
Offer monthly Holy Hour – Rosary and Benediction in Spanish	First Friday evenings – Pastor and Deacon rotate dates.	Continue to offer and publicize more.	HISPANIC MINISTRY	Ongoing
Offer parish office hours with bilingual staff to assist parishioners.	Fridays 6p - 8pm and	Continue to offer.	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Saturdays 11 am – 2pm			
Support Hispanic traditions – Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena and Celebration, Three year old blessings, Quinceañeras, etc.	Increased participation at the Spanish Mass, community building	Continue to offer.	HISPANIC MINISTRY	Ongoing

<b>EVANGELIZATION   Welcome the lost and drifting – Renew the Faith</b>				
<b>Task or Action</b>	<b>Strategy / Result</b>	<b>Step(s)</b>	<b>Commission</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Increase parishioner’s knowledge of Catholic faith via home study	Purchase parish subscription to Formed.org	Promote through bulletin articles and religious education.	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Since 2017
Parish Mission – combine with other cluster parishes to host a good speaker / share cost	Offered a Lenten Mission (English and Spanish) for three parishes – St. Alexander, St. John and St. Joseph.	Pastors and Deacons will meet and discuss mission dates and possible speakers.	ADMIN	Annually
Adult Faith Formation (Thursday evenings)	Increased participants (15) through bulletin article and personal invitation.		FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
Men’s Weekend Retreat offered through Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House.	Increased participation with new attendees.	The obstacles to greater attendance are cost and work schedules. Consider scholarship and personal invitation.	FAITH FORMATION	Annually
Women’s Retreat – Day of Reflection offered through CCW	Choose a speaker on a current topic for women.	Schedule a date and publicize for all the women of the parish.	PARISH LIFE	Annually
Eucharist for the Homebound	Established ministry leader and recruited ministers for the team.	Continue to offer this ministry, recruit and train new ministers to assist.	WORSHIP	Ongoing

**EVANGELIZATION | Proclaim the sacraments.**

Task or Action	Strategy / Result	Step(s)	Commission	Time Frame
Increase awareness of the availability of sacramental preparation (RCIA, Sacraments of Initiation, Marriage/Convalidations)	Utilize the <i>Call to Sacraments</i> information area in the narthex. Host a call to sacraments weekend.	Bulletin articles, update website information.	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
Annulment Ministry	Continue to offer	Encourage training of another couple as field advocates	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
Increase participation in Reconciliation	Pastor and Deacon to include this topic in homilies.	Speak on the topic of Forgiveness	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Published local area church hours for Reconciliation in bulletin.	Publish especially during Lent. Promote Deanery event.	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Combined Divine Mercy celebration as a cluster – 350+ confessions.	Promote Celebration which rotates among 4 parishes	WORSHIP	Annually
Baptism Preparation Program: (offered in English and Spanish) Use as an opportunity to bring families into full sacraments.	Result - Increased participation in RCIA program, increased enrollment in RE, and additional marriages and convalidations.	Continue to evangelize about other sacraments during Baptism Prep classes	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
	Provide as needed Baptism Prep in English for St. Joseph Parish.	Search for new volunteers to train as facilitators for baptism prep in English and Spanish.	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
Marriage Preparation Program for couples	Continue to work with couples and offer one marriage seminar per year.	Create a Marriage Ministry Team. Recruit and train volunteers to facilitate marriage preparation (English and Spanish).	FAITH FORMATION	Ongoing
Support Marriage Enrichment	Renew vows for key anniversary dates for parishioners.	Continue to offer	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Quarterly blessing for married couples.	Continue to offer	WORSHIP	Ongoing
	Have parish reps in the Deanery Marriage Ministry Group	Promote Marriage Ministry Deanery Events	ADMIN	Ongoing
	Promote Marriage Encounter	Invite speaker and have brochures available	ADMIN	Annually
Religious Education Program	Evaluate RE program to place students who have missed RE from grades 3-6	Consider a placement test and a Sacrament Preparation Introductory Class before students prepare for Confirmation and/or Eucharist	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Begin in 2019 and continue to develop
	Establish Confirmation as a two-year program	Begin conversion in 2019-2020	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	2020-2021
	Provide opportunities for catechist training	Utilize new catechist training resources on formed.org	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Ongoing
	Host RE Parent Formation opportunities	Offer parent programs on select topics when students are in RE class	FAITH FORMATION / EDUCATION	Ongoing

<b>CHARITY   Care for people in need.</b>				
<b>Task or Action</b>	<b>Strategy / Result</b>	<b>Step(s)</b>	<b>Commission</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Feed the hungry	Casserole Ministry – provide casseroles once a month at the Missionaries of Charity Soup Kitchen.	Continue – Recruit volunteers for casserole collection as well as additional drivers.	OUTREACH	Ongoing
	Hosting and providing volunteers for the Mobile Food Pantries held at St. John and St. Joseph	Raise funds for parish to sponsor mobile food truck	OUTREACH	Ongoing
	Maintain an emergency food pantry	Deliver overflow to York Township Food Pantry	OUTREACH	Ongoing
	Holiday Meals Program – Parishioners donate to provide families with meals at Thanksgiving.	Work with St. Alexander to provide more meals.	OUTREACH	Ongoing
	Provide volunteers at Northern Illinois Food Bank during the year.	CCW provides the signup for these events.	OUTREACH	Ongoing
Support families in need	Parish wide collection for Undy Sunday through Catholic Charities	Continue	OUTREACH	Annually
	Coat and toy drive during the holiday season. (RE)	Religious Education students take the lead on this effort.		Annually
Work with Catholic Charities	Respond to the call from Catholic Charities for various collections and events that need volunteers.	Continue	OUTREACH	ongoing
Provide Community Services information to those in need	Created a Community Resources binder for the rectory staff.	Staff uses the information to refer those in need to the proper agencies (if the parish cannot meet their need).	ADMIN	Keeping binders updated

<b>CHARITY   Advocate for and with the voiceless.</b>				
<b>Task or Action</b>	<b>Strategy / Result</b>	<b>Step(s)</b>	<b>Commission</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Support Pro-Life Efforts	Baby Bottles For Life – Waterleaf (formerly Women’s Choice Services)	Continue to support this group through the CCW.	PARISH LIFE	Annually
	Representation at the <i>March for Life</i> - Pastor attends	Continue and increase representation.	ADMIN	Annually
	Pro-life Prayer Service	Continue to offer. CCW leads.	WORSHIP	Annually
Support local hospital and nursing homes with communion to patients	Pastor has an assigned day at hospital and ministers bring communion as scheduled.	Continue to support through Deanery.	ADMIN	Ongoing

# St. John the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council Commission Structure

