

Focus on the Future: Priorities and Smart Goals

My friends in Christ:

For the past two months, I have been slowly introducing you to the parish planning strategy for the future of St. Jude Parish. This weekend, I want to share the three Priorities and Smart Goals (Action Steps) that will engage the whole parish in shaping the future of our parish. Our ultimate goal is to help our parish grow in numbers, faith and service, as we strive to radiate the face of Jesus Christ.

PRIORITY 1

Engaging Our Community: Embracing a culture of involvement and excitement about faith through social gatherings and parish events to welcome all groups as our own.

Rationale: Fostering a culture of engagement is the foundation for growth. It must be found in all aspects of our parish— Mass, social events, school and PREP, parish ministries, and our outreach to the surrounding community. By building on a culture of engagement, parishioners will grow in their faith, feel more connected, and be more involved in our parish.



SMART Goals:

- Social Gatherings Goal - To offer 2 new social events targeting a new identified group to the annual calendar by the end of the 2023 year. For example, maybe add a social event for single parents or single adults.
- Growth of Community Outreach - To raise awareness in the community through 1 new event to promote and increase involvement by June of 2023. For example, maybe have a collection day where identified needs are collected at the church. At the time of collection, people are given information on how to contact the group for those in need or given information on how to be involved on a regular basis. This collection day would be advertised community-wide, not just parish-wide.
- Education Events - To offer 1 new educational event that would generate interest outside of the immediate parish by June of 2023. Maybe a finance seminar, a real estate seminar, preparing for college, and a resume clinic. Events that get people to our parish and give an opportunity to learn more about St. Jude as a result and fosters friendship.
- Improve greeting/welcoming - Expand welcome committee participation by increasing committee by 5 people by June of 2023 and connect welcome events with other ministries by June of 2024. For example, have other ministries sponsor Social Sundays with the welcome committee, as a way of informing parishioners of the different ministries.
- Improve greeting/welcoming - Restart the Greeting Committee with at least enough members to have 2 greeters at every Mass by June of 2023. In addition, provide training so that greeters can be as effective and as warm as possible. This training should be provided on an annual basis.

PRIORITY 2

Strengthening Our Parish: Building our parishioners' relationships with God and each other through spiritual activities and opportunities that encourage growth, both individually and collectively.

Rationale: Strengthening our parish by bringing people closer to God and each other will enliven our parish with the fire of the Holy Spirit and enable us to joyfully serve and show the love of Jesus to all we encounter.

SMART Goals:

- Improve Sunday experience approval by 20% (Survey Monkey baseline) by updating format, welcoming/greeting, homilies, spiritual activities, et al within the next 12 months (refresh every other year)
 - Start with survey getting approval rating
 - Have survey include suggestions for spiritual and social activities
- Find, promote, and empower a Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation Leader in the next 12 months
- Schedule and run a parish-wide youth event that includes service and fellowship (like Camp Heart) by the end of summer 2023



PRIORITY 3

Sharing Our Faith: Equipping and supporting our parishioners to share their faith journey with others.

Rationale: Jesus instructed us to “make disciples of all the nations,” and “teach them to observe all that he commanded” in the Great Commission. Sharing our faith falls squarely in the Great Commission. In addition, a better understanding of our faith may lead people to a greater engagement, which in turn will strengthen our parish.



SMART Goals:

- Over the next three years, increase the number of attendees by 50% to the St. Jude Faith Formation events that will inspire people to think about their own faith journey and growth opportunities
- Increase parish participation in archdiocesan events and retreats targeted at men, women, and families. Organize one event, per group, each year
- Over the next 12 months, identify additional ways that ministries can increase their support of our leaders (i.e. succession planning in ministries, additional duties before, during, and after Mass, tending to the sick, etc.)
- Create a “how to” guide to help people become more comfortable sharing their faith with 3 ideas, videos, or messages a year.