

Saint Jerome Parish Pastoral Strategic Plan

Mission

To live and advance the Gospel Values of Jesus Christ to all through worship, education, and service, by giving of our time, talents and tithes.

Vision

St Jerome Parish is a vibrant Catholic community welcoming people of all ages to live their faith through celebration of the sacraments, prayer, education, outreach and service to those in need.

Goals

1. Establish a vibrant, warm and welcoming atmosphere for all people, of all ages, in all parish activities.

- Continue maintaining and decorating the interior and exterior of the church.
- Place welcoming messages on the sign in front of the church.
- Place greeters at the church entrances before Mass.
- Form a "Hospitality committee" for the parish to run various events; for example, a "Welcoming Mass", reception and informational packet for new parishioners.
- Determine the feasibility of hiring a Youth Minister to start a youth program.
- Designate certain Sunday Masses to give special blessings; for example, for recently engaged couples, parents to be, students leaving for college, active duty military and veterans.
- Invite religious education students and their parents to attend and participate in St. Jerome School PTA sponsored events.
- Schedule periodic "Pot Luck" dinners following Mass.
- Establish a "St. Jerome School" baby sitter's club.

2. Increase full, conscious and active participation in Sunday Mass.

- Focus the liturgy and music in one or two regular Masses to create a more celebratory, upbeat and participative atmosphere, while retaining reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.
- Develop an instructional Mass to create a better understanding of the parts of the Mass and God's presence in the Mass.

- Develop a music liturgy that attracts participation by those attending Mass.
- Deliver Homilies that create a greater consciousness of our faith and its relevance to our daily lives.
- Increase youth participation in Sunday Mass outside of altar service or choir. For example, invite the Bell Choir to play or incorporating students who play other instruments.

3. Increase Mass attendance to a higher percentage of the Parish on a weekly basis.

- Reach out to the newly married, families of the newly baptized and inactive parishioners.
- Recognize new Parishioners at Mass and invite a new family to bring up the gifts.
- Provide a means of transportation to Mass for those who need it.
- Use social media to encourage youth and young adults to attend Mass.
- Consider inviting the parents of Religious Education students to attend a class with their children on the value of Mass and our obligation to attend Mass.
- Invite a visiting ~~a visiting speaker~~ or musical group to encourage more people to attend Mass; for example, St. Michael's of Vermont's choir/band.
- Link other activities to the celebration of Mass; such as recognizing ministries for their work or Confirmation students for their community service projects.

4. Increase St. Jerome School and Religious Education program enrollment.

- Hire a full time marketer and form a marketing committee to develop an aggressive marketing plan for St. Jerome School incorporating all viable media.
- Create a section in the Parish Bulletin and the Parish and School websites to highlight St. Jerome School students and alumni.
- Invite Religious Education students to spend a day in the classroom at St. Jerome School.
- Use the Diocesan Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP) database to reach out to St. Jerome Alumni to support the Tuition Donation, Student Adoption and Technology Upgrade programs.
- Seek accreditation as a Blue Ribbon School.
- Launch a technology upgrade campaign to upgrade computers and servers and acquire more Smart-Boards for classrooms.

- Consider commissioning a study to determine how parents decide which Catholic School they choose to enroll their children in and how St. Jerome School can improve.

5. Revitalize all existing parish programs and organizations within the next year.

- Periodically give short presentations and post articles in the Monitor, Bulletin and Parish website about different ministries' mission, accomplishments and benefits to the Parish, school and community.
- Schedule a special dinner and/or Mass with a special blessing as a "Thank You" to all Parish organizations and ministries.
- Consider commissioning a video showcasing all Parish organizations/ministries that can be shown during Mass.
- Celebrate liturgical ministry founding date during a scheduled Sunday Mass.
- Recruit new members from the youth and young adult community.
- Have each organization revisit their mission in an effort to stay relevant to our Parish's current spiritual, social, communal and personal needs.
- Coordinate with counterparts in other parishes to share ideas and experience.

6. Become more visible in local communities through involvement in community service programs.

- Form committees to address the special needs of Parishioners; such as bereavement, illness, a consolation ministry, assistance to seniors and clothing drives.
- Expand the scope of Hospital Visitors beyond that of Eucharistic Ministers to include visits to the sick and elderly.
- Form a "coordination committee" to understand the community service needs of the Parish and community, coordinate volunteer activities and volunteer training. Connect with community service organizations; such as Operation Life, Helping Hands, Lunch Break and Interfaith Neighbors, as well as those of other local church denominations.
- Form a "public relations committee" to publicize the voluntary service activities of St. Jerome Parish and School within the Parish and community.
- Link to a job listings website on the St. Jerome parish website