



---

## St. John the Baptist Parish Pastoral Plan and Annual Report

---

### Six Main Goals

---

June 2017 – June 2022

---

*Introduction: From September 2016 through May 2017, the Pastoral Council studied the results of the Parish Listening Session (September 2016) and also the Town Hall Meeting (February 2016). Based on the repeated themes from our parishioners, six general goals are now formed. They will guide the pastoral and fiscal planning of the parish during the next five years. The Pastoral Plan will bring us to June 2022, the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of our parish.*

**GOAL ONE: Establish youth ministry in which our young people are an active part of our community, prayer and service.**

---

#### Accomplishments this past year:

- ❖ During 2016-spring of 2017, the Council has been following up on the results of the Listening Session. One of the most frequent needs that surfaced is for *Youth Ministry*. The Council talked about how best to design the right shape of youth ministry for St. John the Baptist parish. It was agreed that we need to listen to the needs and ideas of our young people, so that there can be real ownership by the young people themselves.
- ❖ The Council designed a questionnaire for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation candidates. It was presented by young adults of the parish, who visited each of the classrooms and walked the students through the questionnaire. In total, 95 questionnaires were filled out. A subcommittee of the Council began to work on the results.
- ❖ The Finance Committee has been helpful in designing next year's budget to include a new parish position. This year's budget is a deficit budget, and the Finance Committee is advising Fr. Frank on how best to use our resources this year and the upcoming year. In late spring, Fr. Frank began working with the Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of Rockville Centre to help surface viable candidates for the position.
- ❖ The Council has also directed the Worship Reflection Group to find

- ❖ The Council has also directed the Worship Reflection Group to find ways to include more young people at Sunday Eucharist. Starting in the late fall, young people are invited to the sanctuary to join the presider for the Our Father (9:15 and 11:15 masses). The Council is making efforts to ensure that all people are welcome, especially young families.
- ❖ The summer of 2017 will see the launch of a new program, Vacation Bible Camp, during the third week of August. Teenagers will serve as counselors and campers will be from Kindergarten through sixth grade.

### **Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

1. Hire the Youth Minister.
2. Educate the parish about youth ministry throughout the year, and follow the “Life Teen” six-month process to launch youth ministry.
3. Pastoral Council, parish and staff support the steps needed to begin youth ministry.

### **GOAL TWO: Strengthen the Sunday Eucharist as the heart of our parish community, ensuring worship that is joyful and welcoming.**

#### **Accomplishments this past year:**

- ❖ In the fall, the Worship Reflection Group (WRG) was formed in order to enhance the quality of our Sunday worship. WRG first focused on the Christmas celebrations: design a welcoming, warm environment at Christmas. WRG then worked on planning the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum, again aware of the need for active participation and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially young people.
- ❖ In the late spring the WRG recommended that the Gather books be replaced (after 20 years), and to include the Sunday readings, as strongly suggested at the Listening Session last September. A campaign to memorialize the 400 books will help to defray the expense (\$10,000).
- ❖ The Council agreed that during the times that Eucharist is celebrated, there are to be no other parish activities scheduled. A Faith Formation Focus Group was formed in order to look at the Sunday class schedule and see how best to make the Eucharist the focus for all families.
- ❖ The Faith Formation Director, with the help of the Focus Group, has re-designed the registration form and included an informal way for each family to commit to the Sunday mass that will best suit their schedule.
- ❖ Both the choirs experienced more participation (adult and children). They practice on a weekly basis.

### **Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

They practice on a weekly basis.

### **Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

- The new Gather Hymnals will be ordered and be the one worship aid for the Eucharist.
- As Youth Ministry begins to get underway, an active search will be held to have more consistent accompaniment at the 5:00 mass on Saturday.
- Begin to discern if there is a weekend mass that can be designated for more contemporary music and attract youth and younger families.

### **GOAL THREE: Encourage active participation of everyone in our community, using time and talent in current ministries and new ministries.**

#### **Accomplishments this past year:**

- ❖ In September a parish-wide Listening Session was held. Over one hundred and sixty parishioners attended, and a report was generated which highlighted the trends that surfaced during the evening.
- ❖ The Pastoral Council was formed in October, and chose to focus this year on two of the major trends from the Listening Session: Sunday Eucharist and Youth Ministry.
- ❖ The Council worked through the year in creating a Mission Statement that is inclusive, inviting, and can direct pastoral planning. Feedback was sought from parishioners through the month of May.
- ❖ Parishioners were invited to help decorate the church for Christmas in the afternoon of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. About 25 people came, including young families. All felt it generated a joyful and positive spirit.
- ❖ There was a concerted effort to recruit young people to the ministry of lector.
- ❖ During the year a list of parish ministries and contact persons has been taking shape. This will be helpful in our Celebration of Ministries that is being planned for the fall of 2017.

### **Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

- Plan a “Celebration of Ministries” for the fall and begin to raise awareness of the variety of ministries and ways to share time and talent.
- Begin to assemble a “Ministries Directory”.
- Use the bulletin and website to keep parishioners informed of the

- Begin to assemble a “Ministries Directory”.
- Use the bulletin and website to keep parishioners informed of the opportunities to share time and talent.

**GOAL FOUR: Develop Faith Formation as a life-long process for children, young families, and adults.**

---

**Accomplishments this past year:**

- ❖ The Faith Formation Focus Group has been meeting since the late fall and looking at ways to enhance the formation of our children. It was agreed that the 45 minutes classes will be expanded to 60 or 75 minutes.
- ❖ The “Chosen” program was launched for our Confirmation Candidates (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade). The use of short videos generates healthy discussion and a better understanding of our faith. Both levels also were involved in a Retreat experience as part of their preparation for Confirmation.

**Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

- Encourage families to participate in the Sunday Eucharist, especially through the registration process and asking parents to reflect on which Mass is best for their schedule.
- Include more young people/grades at the Sunday mass to strengthen their feeling of belonging to the parish family.
- Ensure that sacramental preparation is done through the classroom setting as directed by the Diocese of Rockville Centre.
- Strengthen the connection between the Preschool and parish masses, events and programs.

**GOAL FIVE: Strengthen our services to the needy in our community and diocese, especially through outreach.**

---

- ❖ The Outreach programs which have been successful in the past all continued this year and the response is encouraging: food pantry, Thanksgiving and Christmas drives, Gathering Inn, St. Patrick’s Day Gala, Back to School drive, etc.
- ❖ The Ministry of Consolation grew this past year and is stronger.

**Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

- Continue to assist our parishioners at the Wading River Motel, and work with the staff to determine other ways to be of help.
- Begin to work with Youth Ministry and coordinate ways for young people to be of service to the needy through the Outreach ministries and events.
- Continue to find ways to strengthen the St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser.

- Continue to find ways to strengthen the St. Patrick's Day fundraiser.
- Review the Gathering Inn and ensure that proper procedures are being followed.

**GOAL SIX: Develop our stewardship of parish resources, especially finances, to enable long-range planning for ministries and facilities.**

---

**Accomplishments this past year:**

- ❖ In September the Finance committee was formed and has been working closely with the pastor to monitor the budget and address the projected deficit.
- ❖ Stewardship Renewal was re-initiated during the month of November. Finance Council members gave the annual financial report, witness talks were given by Council members and Finance committee members, and commitment cards were sent to all parishioners with the invitation to take a step with time, talent and treasure.
- ❖ Weekly giving has increased throughout the year as a result of the Stewardship Renewal.
- ❖ Safe Environment requirements (Diocese of Rockville Centre) were reviewed, and where necessary, implemented.

**Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)**

- ❖ Use the month of October to focus on Stewardship Renewal (Time, Talent and Treasure).
- ❖ Continue to monitor the budget to ensure proper use of parish resources.
- ❖ Begin to formulate a plan to address the parish debt.
- ❖ Use the 2008 Facilities Report from the Diocese of Rockville Centre and determine the needs of the parish buildings.