

# **St. John Catholic Church**



**Parish Pastoral Plan 2023-2028**

Fellow Parishioners,

In 2021, Bishop Rice set new norms for the parish councils of our diocese that resulted in a shift in focus of the Parish Pastoral Council. Instead of working on the day-to-day operations of the parish, the parish council was instead tasked to “expend their energy on strategies that ensure vibrant sacramental encounters and offering programs and retreats that assist in spiritual growth and formation” of parish members.

Encountering that change was a challenge for the Council and much of 2021 was spent examining the past and determining issues that needed to be addressed. The Parish Town Hall also helped get a snapshot of what parishioners felt our parish needed.

The last few months, the Parish Council has been focusing on the future and how to best serve our parish community to ensure holy and thriving parish life for years to come. Subcommittees have been formed to better delegate tasks. Those subcommittees are Hospitality, Service, and Forming Disciples/Education. It is also important when planning to set objective goals and clear action plans, which is the purpose of this document. A 5-year plan allows us to set a direction and then re-evaluate each year to determine what is working in order to recalibrate our actions.

Our hope is to reverse trends seen across the wider Catholic Church as well as in our own parish. While the numbers of people each week in mass or yearly baptism, marriage, or RCIA numbers are not sole indicators of a thriving or declining parish, we can use them to assess our efforts. As seen on the charts on page 3, our trendlines are in decline, which are consistent (but maybe not as steep) with the wider Catholic Church. If we can correct these trends, it will be a good indicator we are moving in the right direction.

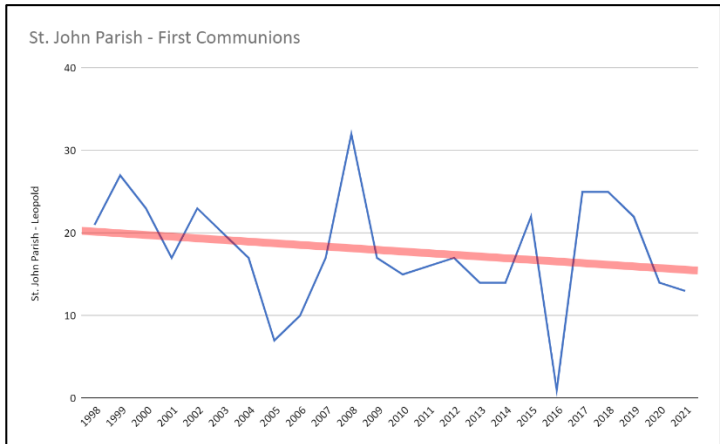
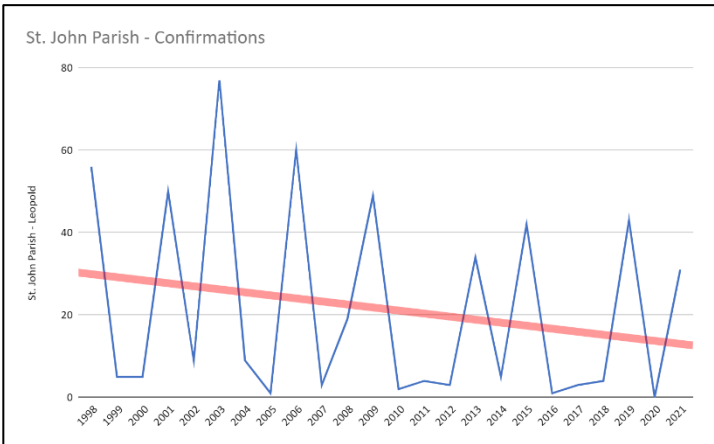
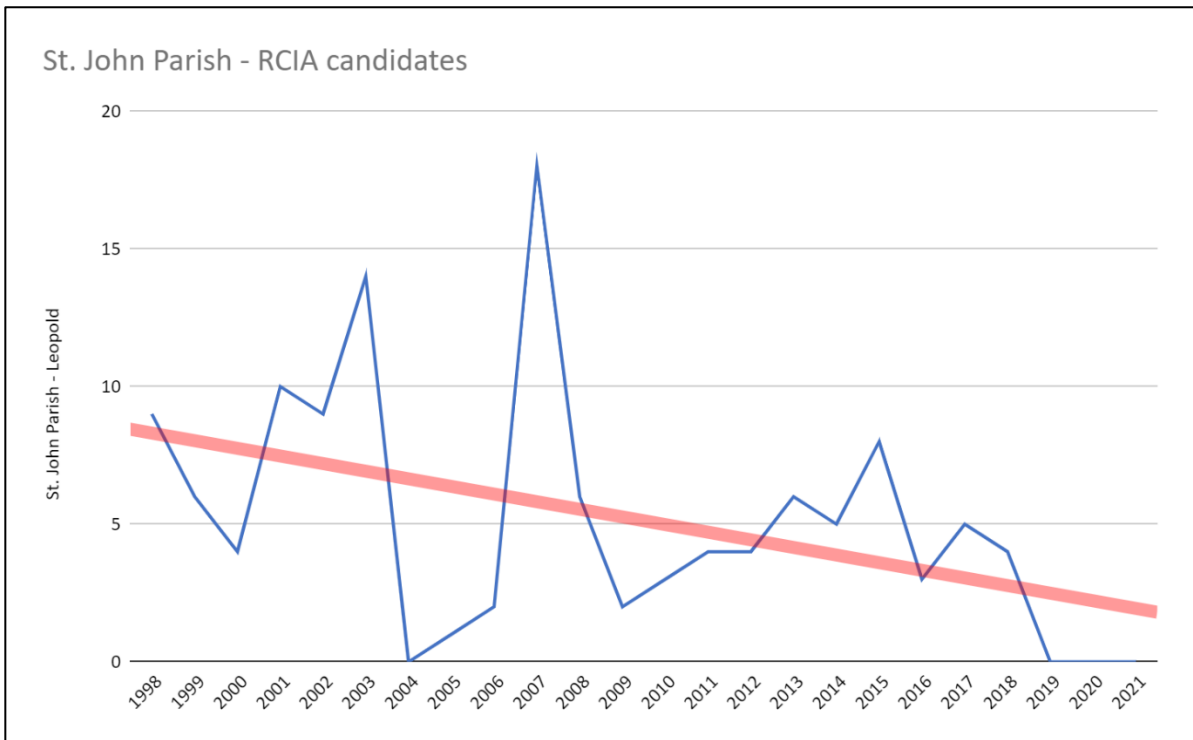
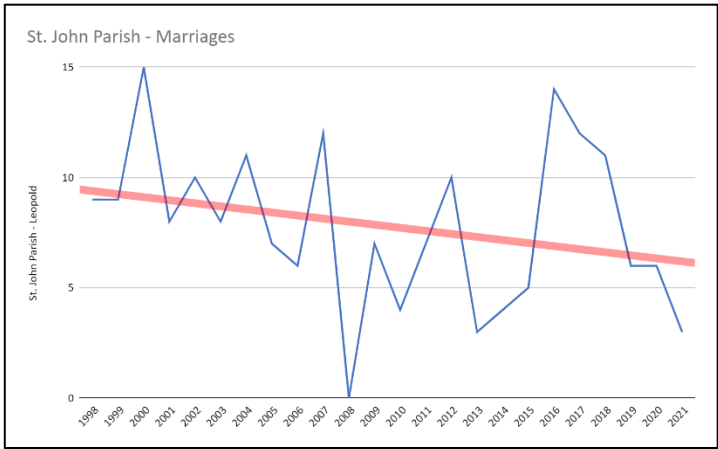
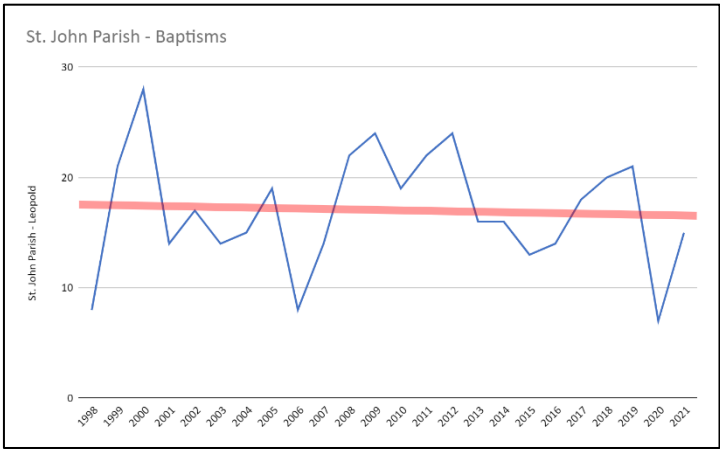
However, ***our ultimate goal is to ensure each parishioner knows, loves, and serves Jesus*** and brings every person they know to encounter Jesus as well in order to fill heaven. Therefore, the goals in our 5-year plan are not organized towards increasing the numbers seen in the charts, but rather to ensure each parishioner has opportunities to encounter Jesus and develop an intimate relationship with Him. If that happens, those trendlines will naturally reverse as more people come into full communion with the Catholic Church and live Her precepts. We believe as a parish council that this shift happens with improved family life and dynamics (the domestic church).

The Parish Council has also developed a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and a set of Core Values that are on page 4. Following on pages 5-7 are each subcommittees’ goals and action plans that will be used first as a target and then as a reference point for the next 5 years to evaluate our efforts. Pages 8-9 outline various stages of discipleship and a path of ministry for disciples for various ministries to reference.

We have been praying for parish renewal for many months now before each Sunday mass. We more diligently go forward now with plans in place for that renewal. We ask that you take the time to prayerfully consider your own faith life and your role within this parish. If you feel called to dive deeper into your faith life or want to help the parish in some manner, please reach out to Fr. Antony or a Parish Pastoral Council member!

In Christ,

St. John Parish Pastoral Council



## **Mission**

*To seek those who need Christ, to share Christ through our conviction, deeds, and faith, and to love our neighbors as Christ loves us.*

## **Vision**

*We are St. John's Parish in Leopold, forming Saints with a fire for Christ.*

## **Core Values**

Zeal

Evangelization

Service

Sacraments

Prayer

# Hospitality Committee

Cody Van de Ven, Steve Upchurch, Melvin Keith

**Priority:** *develop more intimate community within our parish*

**Ministry Involvement** (each ministry could be involved or is already involved in improving overall parish hospitality in some way)

- PCCW
- St. Monica's Group
- Youth Group
- PSR
- Knights of Columbus
- Ladies Auxiliary
- Family Ministry
- Ushers at mass
- Maintenance committee
- Groundskeepers
- Prayer Garden committee
- Parish Secretary
- Picnic committee
- Vocation Ministry

## Goals

- *Short Term Goals*
  - *STG 1:* Develop "Welcoming Apostolate" of 5 members and have norms for outreach to new parishioners, RCIA candidates, newly baptized parishioners, and confirmation candidates within 6 months.
    - Reach out to parishioners that showed interest in the survey to join the Welcoming Apostolate.
    - Have a meeting before end of 2022 to set up how the new ministry will be organized.
  - *STG 2:* Have meals with any new parishioner or families from the last 2 years to witness the Gospel and inform of ministries and invite them to participate by March 2023.
    - Welcoming Apostolate to coordinate
  - *STG 3:* Have at least 2 parish events a year focused on fellowship and faith sharing with a goal of 75% of attendees post event survey reflecting increased sense of community and interest in attending more parish activities.
    - Assist with Family Ministry potlucks with emphasis on personal invitations to parishioners
    - Assist with planning and invitations for St. John's feast day dinner.
    - Invite new parishioners and less involved parishioners.
  - *STG 4:* By the end of 2022, 2-4 friendly parishioners will be recruited and tasked to greet any new faces they see each week to ensure visitors feel welcome.
    - Invite charismatic parishioners that are regulars at each mass to assist with greeting new people.
  - *STG 5:* Recruit a social media manager to improve online presence by the end of 2022.
    - Condense activity to "St. John's Catholic Church" Facebook page instead of group page to improve consistency of messaging.
    - Improve coordination with ministries to ensure good advertisements through social media for upcoming events.
- *Long Term Goals*
  - *LTG 1:* Hospitality group has dinner with 1 family/parishioner a month for fellowship and faith sharing.
  - *LTG 2:* Host 2 events a year with 90% of attendees post event survey reflecting increased sense of community and interest in attending more parish activities.
  - *LTG 3:* Ensure STGs 1-5 are met and continued each year 2-5.

# SERVICE COMMITTEE

Pam Wesbecher, Gina Jansen, Donnie Landewee

## Priority: Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Harbor the harbor less
- Visit the sick
- Ransom the captive
- Bury the dead

*“The people who are summoned to inherit the Kingdom are those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick. An open hand comes from a religious heart.” – Fulton J. Sheen*

## SHORT TERM GOALS

- Update Ministry List
  - Review previous list and remove ministries no longer in place and add new ministries such as “Card Ministry” and “Eucharistic Ministry for Care Facilities and Homebound”
- Ensure Sunday Communion is taken to Stonebridge Senior Living under Fr. Antony’s direction
  - Providing communion would require Eucharistic Minister volunteers, but anyone could help with the visits and transportation.
  - Volunteer Eucharistic Ministers may need a refresher course on the particulars of transporting and administering the Body of Christ outside of the church.
- Improve outreach to homebound.
  - We would like to reach out to Cindy or Father to see if they have a list of parishioners staying not only at Stonebridge in Marble Hill, but others too.
  - Would it first be best to have Fr. Antony determine on his home visits if the homebound are open to visitors
- Start Card Ministry
  - Add this to the master ministry list so volunteers can send cards to the sick based on requests from the prayer line and to others that are made known to us
  - Getting addresses may require some phone calls on the minister’s part
  - Coordinate with Cindy Jansen who is currently sending cards on behalf of St. John’s parish for various life events.

## LONG TERM GOALS

- Involve around 20 people so as not to overwhelm any volunteers. As we recruit parishioners, we would be able to implement more of the ideas.
- Regular Masses at Stonebridge
- We also thought about reaching out to the Amen Center, Birthright, and VIP with prayer request boxes. We considered putting prayer request boxes at these places and those requests could possibly be shared on Flocknote or anonymously included in Thursday rosaries. We are open to other places if anyone knows of other good places.
- Could possibly find parishioners to transport folks from the Patton area and the Amen center if there are Catholics there that would like to attend mass. Of course, this would not be limited to just those places but offered to anyone who needs/requests it. Could also invite them to breakfast at KC hall to meet other parishioners.

# Forming Disciples/Education Committee

Leeann Jansen, John Bohnsack Lorie Graham, Cindy Jansen

## **Priority: TO KNOW GOD IS TO LOVE GOD**

"IGNORANCE OF THE SCRIPTURES IS IGNORANCE OF GOD." --St. Jerome.

The Adult Formation/Education Ministry in the spirit of our Parish Mission is to help make parishioners disciples for Christ; helping them to understand their faith; to give them what they need to be better Catholics at home and in the world in which we live.

## **SHORT TERM GOALS**

- Provide educational and faithful materials or programs at least once or twice a month to keep "learning" at the forefront of their minds. (Out of sight out of mind)
- Have the parishioners make suggestions on what they want to learn about and provide what we can for their needs

## **LONG TERM GOALS:**

- Develop a scheduled plan to always have some kind of learning experience or sharing for all on subjects of faith, sacraments, Church teachings and Doctrines
- Develop an ongoing Bible study on the scriptures so people will read the Bible
- A study on the Catechism or the Doctors of the Church or the Precepts of the Church
- Do more study on the saints
- Book Club like study on great writers and subjects
- Weekday offering of learning for those who don't like to drive at night (most likely older people so maybe on subjects more relevant to them.)
- Work with family ministry to help parents teach religion at home (the Domestic Church)



		<u>DISCIPLESHIP</u>			
<u>STRATEGY</u>	<u>PRE-EVANGELIZATION &amp; EVANGELIZATION</u>	<u>Acquaintance of Jesus</u>	<u>Jesus is a Friend</u>	<u>Jesus is a Close Friend</u>	<u>Jesus is your Best Friend</u>
<b>STAGE</b>	<b>Stranger To Jesus</b>				
<b>OTHER NAME</b>	Seeker / Non-Disciple	Intentional Disciple	Developing Disciple	Missionary Disciple	Multiplying Disciple
<b>MARKERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Spiritually apart from Jesus.</li> <li>-Has never intentionally chosen to make Jesus the center of their life.</li> <li>-Possibly catechized, but not evangelized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Knows Jesus and has intentionally chosen to follow him and make him the center of their life.</li> <li>-Attitude is positive toward Jesus and the Church.</li> <li>-Still ignorant of a life with Jesus.</li> <li>-Self-centered spiritually.</li> <li>-Excited to talk about Jesus, when the time is right.</li> <li>-Serves out of zeal or obligation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Growing closer to Jesus.</li> <li>-Still somewhat ignorant of Christian life &amp; teaching.</li> <li>-Self-centered spiritually.</li> <li>-Has started some daily prayer, and seeks freedom from sin</li> <li>-Regular Sacramental life.</li> <li>-Starting to try active evangelization, but only in certain safe situations.</li> <li>-Serves sporadically.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Actively evangelizing for Jesus and may be able to make disciples, but not multiply.</li> <li>-Prays daily.</li> <li>-Seeks personal formation themselves, rather than depending on others.</li> <li>-Deep Sacramental life.</li> <li>-Moving to other-centered / God-centered.</li> <li>-Serves consistently.</li> <li>-Works through charisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discipling others who do the same and spiritually multiplying.</li> <li>-Prayer is personal, daily, intense, and deep.</li> <li>-Considered knowledgeable on doctrine and practice.</li> <li>-Sacraments are center of spiritual life.</li> <li>-Other-centered / God-centered - humility.</li> <li>-Serves constantly.</li> <li>-Helps others work through charisms</li> </ul>
<b>NEEDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Needs initial conversion to Jesus - response to the Kerygma and inviting Jesus in as Lord and Savior.</li> <li>-May know about Kerygma, but hasn't responded to it personally.</li> <li>-Needs clear presentation of Kerygma and opportunity to respond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Needs basic formation in following Jesus.</li> <li>-Starting Prayer, Scripture, Catechesis, moral life, etc.</li> <li>-Needs good mentorship in following Jesus and a lot of time and accountability.</li> <li>-Clarity on big picture of discipleship is key.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Needs further formation in following Jesus &amp; how to start mission.</li> <li>-Accountability is still a large part of discipleship.</li> <li>-Overcoming ignorance, but still very large gaps in knowledge.</li> <li>-Needs the big picture of the Church and her mission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Needs deep formation and accountability for mission.</li> <li>-Is considered an exemplary Christian.</li> <li>-Needs accountability, but less hands on work.</li> <li>-Encouragement and guidance toward holiness and mission are at forefront.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Forms others and holds them accountable to mission.</li> <li>-Is on mission for the glory of God's Kingdom.</li> <li>-Needs community and accountability, but is a leader in most Christian relationships.</li> </ul>



# A Parish Path Of Ministry

CATHOLIC  
MISSIONARY  
DISCIPLES  
© 2018 Catholic  
Missionary Disciples

- Every stage includes:
- Intercessory Prayer
  - Mission / Vision / Strategy
  - Disciples who accompany others
  - Healing, where needed

## PRE-EVANGELIZATION (relationship)

Parish Monthly  
Welcome &  
Orientation  
Dinner - Are you  
Catholic?

Yes

No

## EVANGELIZATION (proclamation / conversion)

ALPHA

Cursillo

CCO Discovery

Life In The  
Spirit

RCIA

## DISCIPLESHIP (Catechesis / Formation / Growth)

Discipleship  
Small Group

Mission Trip

Cursillo Ultreya

Learn to Pray  
deeper (e.g.,  
school of  
prayer)

Initiatory  
Catechesis &  
formation

Further  
Catechesis

Growth in  
Personal  
Prayer

Called and  
Gifted Charism  
discernment

Small Group or  
1-on-1  
discipleship

Daily Scripture  
reading &  
meditation

Silent Retreat

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP ("Make disciples of all nations")