



SAINT JULIANA
PASTORAL COUNCIL

AN UPDATE

FROM THE SAINT JULIANA PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

It has been an exciting year of progress at Saint Juliana Parish! As Chairperson of our Pastoral Council, I wanted to take a moment and share what the Pastoral Council been focused on over the past year, our accomplishments and our goals for the upcoming year.

The St. Juliana Parish Pastoral Council is an enthusiastic, compassionate, faith-filled community leading the commissions and ministries of the Church. With the leadership of Fr. James, the partnership of Vice-Chairperson Eileen Mitchell, the assistance of our Secretary Julie Hammerle, and our team of dedicated Council members, we established over 20 goals last year to reflect our mission as a parish to "Experience Jesus" in everything that we do. These goals are also aligned with the Archdiocesan mission to "Renew My Church," fostering belonging, particularly among young people, inviting them to have a true encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ, making disciples, and building an even more vibrant Saint Juliana community.

Here is what we've accomplished over the past year:

- A new sacristan team was created to support our Sunday Masses.
- We executed a plan to fully support our Sunday 5pm Mass, (which the Pastoral Council launched the year before), as it is our fastest growing Mass.
- The altar service team was expanded to be more inclusive of younger grades, engaging them more regularly with our weekly Mass, along with additional training.
- We retrained our lectors, commentators and Eucharistic ministers to help them grow in a deeper understanding and love for the liturgy, the ministry, and ultimately the Lord whom we all serve.
- Developed a Sunday hospitality initiative and built a team of volunteers to welcome families into our parish every Saturday and Sunday and create an atmosphere of fellowship and belonging that will encourage worshippers to 'Experience Jesus'.
- Worked with our local high schools including Notre Dame, Resurrection, Regina, Loyola, Willows, Taft, Niles West, and Maine High Schools to build a sustaining Teen Ministry to foster personal and spiritual growth, providing fellowship, service, and leadership opportunities.
- Enhanced CCD parents communication, collaboration, and outreach with weekly communication to promote the core of the program, scheduled activities and what we offer in the Parish.
- Launched Children's Liturgy Pre-K to 2nd grade (working in conjunction with Sunday Liturgy team/DRE).
- Executed a new marketing plan to expand reach and enrollment of Vacation Bible School and engaged Totus Tuus to enhance the summer program we offer to our parish families.
- Developed a quarterly book club which included Broken Mary and the very successful Kevin Matthews event which had nearly 800 attendees from St. Juliana and throughout our Archdiocese.
- In conjunction with a former Saint Juliana student, Devyn Pechnick (Class of 2006), Suzanne Nemecek from marketing firm Retail First, Fr. James, Margie Marshall, and a team of marketing professionals, we developed a new school logo that reflects our mission and core values.
- Our new school logo was executed on all branding materials, websites, and social media. To organically market our school within our community and beyond, we distributed over 600 'Saint Juliana School' lawn signs and over 1,000 'Saint Juliana School' car magnets. We also distributed over 800 'Saint Juliana Parish Family' car magnets to CCD families and our parishioners. All materials and design were donated by Retail First.
- Our weekly bulletin was redesigned with clarity and focus, reflecting new branding initiatives to inspire and better communicate what we offer as a parish community, all organized by Sunday, School and Service.

It is also exciting to see our buildings receive critical updates: new church handicap accessible restrooms that are in progress, new carpet in the church and other areas of importance to sustain our physical infrastructure for the future. It's importance cannot be underestimated. We also designed a new conference room in the Parish Center, fully donated by WGN Radio. Other facility upgrades will be announced soon.

Our goals for 2018 include expanding our family Mass (to include school and CCD children) to twice monthly with a goal to expand to weekly in Fall 2019, engaging younger families to join our Sunday ministries, expanding our parish decorating committee, enhancing the music experience in our parish beginning with Advent 2018, expanding our Sunday hospitality initiatives, launching a refreshed ushers program (recruiting women, teens and younger school parents) to include new responsibilities (including communion service), rebooting our parish welcoming committee, engaging younger families to attend

Mass on a weekly basis through education in our school and CCD programs in all that we do, expanding our monthly speaker program, developing programs to engage younger adults and marrieds to help develop a spiritual life rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, creating an online guide to service opportunities for our parish community and researching other Catholic parish communities across America to identify other ministries or groups that would be beneficial to Saint Juliana Parish, building a strategy to strengthen communication and continuing to strengthen our Saint Juliana brand, including adding a sponsored banner program on Touhy Avenue, highlighting what we offer as a parish and school community. Our goal is to take those proceeds and reimagine our school hall to make it a more positive environment for our students and parish community.

With the momentum from one of the most successful fundraising galas in the history of the parish, we have also engaged a talented group of individuals to develop a fundraising strategy for Saint Juliana Parish and School that includes a strategic plan, governance, creation of policies, setting of goals, determining ROI, and the approval of all fundraising activity that best serves our community and our families.

Our thanks to departing Council members from 2017-2018: Lee Baggio, Jim Hynes, Mary Petrash, and Joanna Wozniak. We thank them for their service in supporting the Saint Juliana community!

Here is our current Pastoral Council team and the Commissions they serve:

SUNDAY LITURGY: Diane Damert, Anastasia Jakubow, Eileen Mitchell, Fiona Nolan, and Therese Simonetti

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP: Kathleen Barton, Chris Boldt, Helen Heylin, Dan & Stacy Lenihan, Chet Moylan (NEW)

SCHOOL • CHILDREN: Patty Collins, Eileen Fealy (NEW), Fr. Emanuel Torres-Fuentes (NEW), Hank Lyon (NEW)

SCHOOL • ADULT: Steve Baggio, Tom Dombai (NEW), Fr. Emanuel Torres-Fuentes (NEW), Anastasia Jakubow. We are currently seeking one or two young adults to join this team.

SERVICE: Barb Ernat (NEW), Matt Petrash, Jon & Nicole Utz

COMMUNICATION TEAM (NEW): Julie Hammerle, Anastasia Jakubow, Kim Morreale McAuliffe

FUNDRAISING STRATEGY (NEW): Kim Morreale McAuliffe (NEW), Joan Lynch (NEW), Dana Oswald (NEW), Steve & Lauren Stilich (NEW)

Saint Juliana Parish is here to help people "Experience Jesus." There are so many amazing people who help lead our parish ministries and volunteer in our school. Your leadership and participation is vital to our mission together. It is our relationships with each other that are more important than anything we do. Your time and talent continue to draw us closer to the Heart of Christ, the same Christ we bring to the world through our ministries.

I hope this update provides you with the some insight. The Pastoral Council is grateful for the opportunity to serve our fellow parishioners!

All the very best,
David Plier Chairperson
Saint Juliana Pastoral Council
