

Saint John Fisher Catholic Church



Pastoral Plan 2023-2024

How This Pastoral Plan Came to Be

The Pastoral Planning Committee commissioned a comprehensive parish survey in 2019 to reference in developing our parish's 5-year Pastoral Plan (which comprises 5-year goals for the period 2019 through 2024 and annual objectives). The committee expected that a comprehensive survey would provide an accurate assessment of our parishioners' views and contribute to determining the best ways to meet the needs of our faith community.

The Pastoral Planning Committee worked with CARA, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, a national, non-profit, Georgetown University affiliated research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church. The committee studied and selected from CARA's bank of more than 700 questions before settling on 102 that could best characterize our parish. The spring 2019 in-pew survey participation rate was remarkable: 1260 parishioners responded. Our CARA survey results are available at <https://sjf.org/about/pastoral-council/>.

Through careful review of the survey results and heartfelt discernment, the Pastoral Planning Committee devised a set of 5-year goals and then, following from these goals, yearly objectives to address the needs of our parish. Synod 2021-2024 results from the local, archdiocese, and continental level were also reviewed and discerned over when developing the 2023-2024 objectives.

This year's Pastoral Planning Committee developed 2023-2024 objectives within the context of the extant 5-year goals listed in the center pages of this brochure. In our objectives, we focus on welcome and community, with a special emphasis on our youth. Please see page 4 for the 2023-2024 objectives. We earnestly ask for your prayers and active support.

Please recognize that this brochure is a call to action for all parishioners. For the Saint John Fisher Catholic community to move forward on our faith journey, we need to work together. Please give prayer and discernment to ways you can best contribute to our achieving these goals and objectives, then consider either joining a ministry or creating a ministry with others who share your passion.

2023 – 2024 Pastoral Plan

Love God. Love all People. Make Disciples.

Five-Year Goals

(for the period of 2019-2024)

Outreach

We will reach out to inactive and prospective Catholics

Spiritual Growth

We will enable the spiritual growth of all parishioners

Warmth & Welcome

We will be perceived as a welcoming community

Youth & Young Adult Focus

We will strengthen the Catholic identity and discipleship of youth and young adults

Increased Participation

We will encourage and enable all parishioners to share their gifts and talents

Help & Care for Those in Need

We will help and care for others in our parish, community, and world

2023 – 2024 Objectives

- 1. The Pastoral Council will assist the parish in adopting engagement channels such as Flocknote to publicize the abundance of our parish life.**
- 2. The Pastoral Council will support inviting the community to the Eucharistic Revival and the deepening of our faith through faith formation.**
- 3. The Pastoral Council will host 4-6 events for the parish over the year to welcome new parishioners and engage the existing community.**
- 4. The Pastoral Council will create opportunities for Catholic fellowship and provide support to Edge, Life Teen, and our maturing young adults, while encouraging parental involvement.**

How You Can Contribute

Volunteer! Share your time and talent by getting involved with any of our many ministries.

Come to events or be willing and ready to participate by Zoom, Vimeo, or other means of remote connectivity. We have many activities throughout the year: speakers, classes, concerts, films, family events . . . Our parish offers engaging activities for everyone!

Come to a Pastoral Council meeting! We typically meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. Watch the Bulletin for announcements. All are welcome!

Can't make it to a meeting? Email the pastor, staff, or a Pastoral Council member with your comments. Our contact information is on the back page of this brochure.

Our Mission

Love God.

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Love all people.

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you shall also love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Make disciples.

“Then Jesus approached and said to them, ‘All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Our Identity

At our baptism, we are called to a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our relationship with Christ is nourished in community, united in worship and prayer, and centered in the Eucharist.

As a community of disciples, we help one another discover our unique purpose in life, a work of love that only each of us can fulfill.

In response to the love God has shown us, we answer His call to proclaim the Gospel in all that we say and all that we do in our daily lives. In the spirit of Matthew 25:35-45, we especially show our love for Christ when we minister to those in our families and society who are most in material and spiritual need.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, as the living Body of Christ, we embrace our call, individually and collectively, to “go out and make disciples.”

Pastoral Council 2023-2024

- Joseph McGuinness, chair
- Namele Baker, vice chair
- Stephanie Bezner
- Rosemarie Diehl
- Ron Homer
- Antonia Lavender
- Steve Ludwick
- Tom Magee
- Ryan McCormick
- Jennifer Ryan
- Mikaela Ventura
- Timothy Niemann (youth representative)
- Charlotte Hargrove (youth alternate)

Email us at [*pastoralcouncil@sjf.org*](mailto:pastoralcouncil@sjf.org)

Parish Staff

- Msgr. David A. Sork (dasork@sjf.org) pastor
- Gayle Plecha (gplecha@sjf.org) administrator

