

Pastor's Corner



My Brothers and Sisters:

For English Speakers: a few weeks ago I mentioned a change in the Collect, that opening prayer the priest prays before the readings at Mass. Here is the link for a nice article explaining issues in translating and theology that brought about this change. <https://www.ncregister.com/commentaries/5-ways-catholics-can-grow-spiritually-from-the-christological-collects-during-lent-2021>

Deacon Tom Ward retired from active ministry over a year ago. But we have still been blessed with him helping at funerals, baptisms, baptismal preparations, and simply being in the pews on Sundays. Up until now, we have kept his name on our list of staff on the bulletin. At his suggestion we are taking his name off the bulletin. He tells me he is working hard to be able to be with us again. In the meantime, I thank all of you who have continued to keep up with him and Donna.

Improvements are always being made on the grounds of Saint Lawrence. Just a couple examples are; speakers in the ceiling of Fr. Conen Hall were discovered to still exist and have been re-connected; work is being done to get a working phone in the Church and the Rectory. Also, members of our Making All Things New Capital Campaign committee are working on the next projects, which include re-roofing the Church and making repairs to the Bell Tower.

New 3-5 year Parish Goals and Objectives have been developed by the Pastoral Council over this past year. They are included as an insert in this week's bulletin. For the next several weeks the different Commissions and Committees will be looking at them and working out what can be acted on in the coming year. I ask all of you to look over these and consider how you might help work with others in accomplishing them.

May this Lent be a Time of Renewal,

Fr. Tom

Saint Lawrence Catholic Parish Strategic Plan **2021 3-5 Year Goals and Objectives**

Goal 1:

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church and School endeavors to grow and retain membership of the parish community.

We will grow active parishioners* and church attendance by 10% annually and maintain a 90% retention of parishioners.

We will grow school enrollment by 10% annually, reaching a capacity of 275 students in K-8 and 40 in preschool and retain 95% of school families.

***Active parishioners attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, complete stewardship cards, and/or are consistent givers of time and talent to the parish.**

Objectives

- Identify if all who attend Mass are parishioners
- Explore a registration push, encouraging registration and stewardship
- Work with stewardship commission to develop a stewardship campaign that encompasses school and church families
- A Welcoming Doors Marketing campaign
- Distribute information about our ministries to surrounding neighborhoods
- Partner with other community Churches to help school enrollment
- Exit Survey to those who leave the church and school
- Welcome dinners and opportunities to get involved for new parishioners and school families
- Work toward an inclusive Parish community, so that we are not seen as the Anglo and Hispanic communities

Goal 2: Saint Lawrence Parish community will have streamlined, consistent, inclusive communication, published in a minimum of English and Spanish.

Objectives:

- Complete a comprehensive review of all methods used to currently communicate in the parish
 - Facebook (at least 7 groups)
 - Bulletin
 - My Parish App
 - Pastor Corner
 - Annual Report
 - etc.
- Investigate which parish software is best used to house parishioner information
 - PDS
 - Faith Direct
 - Diocesan Publications
 - Etc.
- Identify accurate emails, phone numbers, and home addresses for parishioners and their preferred method of communication

- Create a team of volunteer reporters and photographers to report what happens at events to publish on social media and other parish sites
- Revisit Church and School Branding-- are we using it?

Goal 3: Saint Lawrence Parish will increase its presence in the surrounding community; will increase participation in current parish ministries; and develop and sustain additional ministry groups that meet the needs and interests of all parishioners.

Objectives

- Cultivate a list of current parish ministries and their descriptions
- Include spiritual, fellowship, and community ministries
- Publish ministry list in some fashion (brochure, bulletin, welcome booklet)
- Develop an annual Ministry Fair for parishioners to explore and sample various ministries
- Survey parishioners to discern ministries they may want to be involved in
- Work with leaders of ministries to develop a welcoming mentality for new members
- Increase visibility in larger community
 - Parades in Lawrence and Indianapolis
 - Crime-Watch Groups
 - Be a partner for public meetings
- Define Ministry Chain of Command and articulate which commission oversees which ministry
- Partner with Communication Goal to communicate ways to get involved