

St. James Parish



Renewal of the Pastoral Plan
February 2019



St. James Parish

“we are the church”

Our Mission

As Disciples of Christ we are called to love God and one another. Centered in the Eucharist and guided by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to all members of God’s Kingdom to connect as one body of Christ in mutual service.

Our Vision

We strive to be a vibrant and welcoming parish, growing in faith and love with Jesus as we become more visible disciples in our community.

St. James Parish

“we are the church”

Our Core Values

- *Welcoming*
- *Fellowship*
- *Stewardship*
- *Evangelization*
- *Spirituality and Worship*

St James Parish



Summary of Focus Group
and
Survey Result Comments
October, 2018



Focus Group and Survey Results

- Positive Aspects of St. James Parish
 - We are a Welcoming Parish and Parishioners are personally invested
 - We have positive leadership at the parish - Fr. Mike, Fr. Jarlath, staff, Pastoral Council and ministry leaders.
 - Our ministries help promote parish involvement and faith formation.
 - We have a positive sense of community



Focus Group and Survey Results

- Positive Aspects of St. James Parish
 - Our Liturgies are prayerful and meaningful
 - Religious Education & Children’s Liturgy are very positive ministries of the Parish, as is the FORMED Program
 - Our CRASH ministry is an important part of the parish
 - Awareness of and involvement with the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley



Focus Group and Survey Results

Continue to promote Fellowship:

- Through common interest groups: Mustard Seed, Movie Nights, Sports, CRASH, Moms of Teens, Music & Senior Ministries
- Through Growth and Involvement in the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley activities including Mass on the Grass, picnics, Festa
- Through Enhancement of the weekly Bulletin and linkage of the St James website to the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley website





St James Parish

Our Path Forward
and
Pastoral Plan
2019 - 2020



St. James Parish



Our Path Forward - the Pastoral Council will focus on the following areas of our parish:

Existing Ministries:

- *Worship and Prayer*
- *Fellowship*
- *Facilities and Environment*

New Ministries:

- *Social Concerns / Social Justice*
- *Ecumenical / Interfaith Relationships*

Linked Ministries:

- *Communications*
- *Faith Formation*

Worship and Prayer Team



➤ Hospitality

- Expand the Team of Greeters, Ushers and Refreshment Servers to have consistent staffing during Mass and other prayer services

➤ Invite Broader Participation in Liturgical Ministries

➤ Education and Communication

- Enhance our activities through the Welcome Center
- Develop communications explaining the Church building design / St James campus

Fellowship Team



- Develop and Implement a new plan for Welcoming New Parishioners
- A new Co-Chair is needed to help facilitate scheduling of Social / Fellowship events in coordination with the Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley
- Update the photo directory (May / June photo sessions scheduled)

Facilities & Environment Team



- Assess and Determine the needs of the Parish to properly maintain the buildings and grounds
- Develop / revise long-range plan to repair / replace / maintain items; assign priorities
- Develop annual maintenance schedule and budget in coordination with the Parish Finance Committee
- Recruit new co-chairs for the Team
- Develop Teams to accomplish tasks using the gifts and talents of members

Social Concerns / Social Justice



- Social Concerns and Social Justice are important ministries at St. James Parish. By sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure to address the needs within our parish and beyond, we fulfill our Core Value of Stewardship, **to “graciously serve all our brothers and sisters”**.
- Our active beneficiaries of this Ministry include Mount Carmel Guild, Habitat for Humanity and HOPE Ministry among many others.
- **We are currently in need of 1 or 2 Pastoral Council co-chairs** to coordinate the events and activities of these various ministries and to communicate to the Social Concerns /Social Justice representative on the Linked Leadership Council.

Ecumenical / Interfaith Relationships



- Ecumenism remains an imperative for all Christians. The Catholic Church's commitment to ecumenism and interfaith relationships is based on the conviction that a divided Christianity "openly contradicts the will of Christ". Our Catholic Church is committed to working for the reunion of all Christians. To fulfill this teaching of Christ, St James Parish would like to form an ***Ecumenical / Interfaith Relationships Team***.
- The Mission of this team is to establish and develop meaningful prayer, social concerns and fellowship relationships with the other Christian and non-Christian congregations in the Pennington area.
- ***We ask that you prayerfully consider joining this team*** as an extension of our Parish Vision ***"to reach out to all members of God's Kingdom to connect as one body of Christ in mutual service"***.

Linked Communications Team



- Merge the 3 Parish Facebook pages to a single Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley page
- Publicize Catholic Community of Hopewell Valley events like the Festa and others through bulletin inserts, Mass announcements, posters, Facebook, Gathering Space video, and website
- Provide technology and training needed for the Welcome Center
- Obtain Calendar dates from all ministries at 3 parishes to create a Master 2019-2020 calendar

Linked Faith Formation Team



- Continue development of the Uniform Religious Education program across the 3 parishes, in a manner to provide scheduling choices for participating families
 - Engage the Summer Program families in year-round participation in Religious Education and general faith formation programs and events
 - Refine the Family+Faith program (now in its second year) to better accommodate the family schedules of students from grades 3-5
- Continue to build awareness of **FORMED.org** as a primary faith formation resource within current parish ministries
 - To complement the objectives of parish ministries
 - As a personal resource for the members of those ministries
- Re-institute small faith-sharing groups as the chief means of fostering faith formation among parishioners



Pastoral Council Goals



- Pastoral Plan
 - Provide the oversight and support to accomplish the Goals of our Pastoral Plan

- Welcome Center
 - Establishment and promotion of the Welcome Center in the Gathering Space

- Communication and Outreach
 - Promote effective communication of parish activities to community
 - Help all parishioners to discern how they are called by God to parish ministry and leadership



St James Pastoral Council



Members:

- Joann Held
- Cara Laitusis
- Gary Meade
- Joseph Mutinsky
- Karen Ranbom
- Charles Sikorski
- Richard Smith
- Charles Turi
- Deacon Richard Currie, Staff
- Monsignor Michael Walsh, Pastor



For More Information or to Volunteer for a Ministry



- Contact any member of the St James Pastoral Council (see our page on the St James website: <https://stjamespennington.org/pastoral-council>)
- Visit the Welcome Center in the Gathering Space before or after weekend Masses