



Saint James Strategic Planning Minutes – October 1, 2019

Meeting's Purpose:

1. To review the recommendations small group teams offered on the Saint James Mission Statement and Pillars for strategic planning.
2. To begin planning for and development of a parish-wide survey.

Opening Prayer: Members prayed to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance as Saint James moves forward with planning.

Review of Saint James Mission Statement: The small-group team did a thoughtful and thorough job of capturing the heart of our Mission Statement. The Mission Statement, as recommended, allows for simple memorization as it focuses on God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Mission Statement Next Step: As we proceed with the strategic planning process, the Mission Statement will continue under review as tweaks may be necessary.

Creation of Pillars for Strategic Planning. Like the Mission Statement team, a second small-group team did outstanding work recommending pillars as guideposts for planning.

Background: Tink Guthre, Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese and Louisville, and lead facilitator for strategic planning, stated that Church strategic planning has 5-6 pillars typically. The small-group team offered eight (8) pillars for review and consideration. They are in no particular order of importance:

1. **Worship:** Worship, Liturgy, Music
2. **Operational Vitality:** Finance, Savings, Debt, Capital, Future of Saint James Campuses
3. **Formation:** Staff, Faculty, Adults, Young Adults, Youth, Children, Ministry to Families Including Sacramental Preparation.
4. **Evangelization:** Outreach and Social Concerns
5. **Fellowship:** Increased Engagement of current, new and non-parishioners with each other in Christ.
6. **Stewardship as a Way of Life:** Time, Talent, Treasure
7. **Communication:** Internal and within the Community

Pillars Next Steps: As a prelude to creating a parish-wide survey, 2-4 members were assigned a pillar from which they are to create 8-12 survey questions to discuss at the November 5 meeting. The final survey questions will be straightforward and will help identify current and future Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of our parish. Once finalized, the survey will be on-line as well as in paper copy form for those who have a specific preference.

Other:

Lorna Vertrees: Numerous new volunteers signed up to assist with The Saint Vincent DePaul store and pantry.

Father Kirby: The Youth Groups are active and engaged.

Greg Schreacke: The Finance Council is seeking debt refinancing at a lower rate. Several banks are being considered.

Jennifer Moran: The "Ask for Additional Funds" from parishioners has been well received.

Sister Marie Hannah: The SJS still has a leaky roof.

Lou Edmondson: A Strategic Planning tracking and implementation tool is updated following each meeting.

The meeting closed with the Prayer of Saint Michael the Archangel.

Next Strategic Planning meeting: November 5, 2019. The focus is to review the survey questions created by each small group team.



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Strategic Planning Big Picture Overview:

Timeframe: Up to 18 months for Development and Implementation (Meeting monthly).
On-Going Monitoring and Revisions

