

The Joe! Study

Parishioner Focus Groups - Expectations

“God’s Holy Spirit is calling us to be community,

to be in communion, to be covenant brothers and sisters in deeper and more committed ways!”

“I am asking all of us to prayerfully reflect on these statements.

Which statements resonate with you? Which statements do you see as more important? Which statements do you see as less important? Which statement is most important for you? Which statement is least important?”

Rev. John Hennessey, The Carpenter, October 3, 2010

This week’s featured Expectations of Ourselves —

7. I will actively participate in parish ministries.

“A member of the lay faithful can never remain in isolation from the community, but must live in a continual interaction with others, with a lively sense of fellowship, rejoicing in an equal dignity and common commitment to bring to fruition the immense treasure that each has inherited.”

Christifidelis Laici, John Paul II

“The Spirit of the Lord gives a vast variety of charisms*, inviting people to assume different ministries and forms of service and reminding them, as he reminds all people in their relationship in the Church, that what distinguishes persons is not an increase in dignity, but a special and complementary capacity for service... Thus, the charisms, the ministries, the different forms of service exercised by the lay faithful exist in communion and on behalf of communion.”

Christifidelis Laici, John Paul II

(*Charisms: unique spiritual graces given to Christians to perform his or her task in the Church and in the world for the sake of others.)

8. I will support a parish-wide focus on the youth, young adults and young families of St. Joseph.

“Adults should be anxious to enter into friendly dialogue with the young, where, despite the difference in age, they could get to know one another and share with one another their own personal riches. It is by example first of all and, by occasion, by sound advice and practical help that adults should persuade the young to undertake the apostolate.”

Vatican II, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People

“The young should first become the first apostles of the young, in direct contact with them, exercising the apostolate by themselves among themselves, taking account of their social environment.”

Vatican II, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People

Expectations of Ourselves

1. I will be kind and welcoming to all.
2. I will participate in the celebration of Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days.
3. I will seek out opportunities to grow in my faith.
4. I will maintain an open heart and spirit by embracing the unique challenges and needs of others.
5. I will bring my God-given talents, gifts, and strengths to the service of others.
6. I will honor and respect the unique journeys of faith of all parishioners.
7. I will actively participate in parish ministries.
8. I will support a parish-wide focus on the youth, young adults and young families of St. Joseph.
9. I will make a commitment to financially support our parish.
10. I will participate in a variety of communication opportunities including focus groups.

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This week’s featured Expectations of Our Parish —

7. We will increase our communications efforts, including the use of technology.

“By the work of their hands and with the aid of technical means man tills the earth to bring forth fruit...”

Vatican II: The Church in the Modern World

“Our century is characterized by the mass media or means of social communication, and the first proclamation, catechesis or the further deepening of faith cannot do without these means, as we have already emphasized. “ and “When they are put at the service of the Gospel, they are capable of increasing almost indefinitely the area in which the Word of God is heard; they enable the Good News to reach millions of people.”

Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI

8. We will maintain an open heart and spirit by embracing the unique challenges and needs of one another.

“The parish is not principally a structure, a territory, or a building, but rather, the family of God, a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit(91), a familial and welcoming home (92), the community of the faithful”(93)

Christifidelis Laici. John Paul II

“Seek first to understand, then be understood.”

In Prayer Saint Francis of Assisi

Expectations of Our Parish

1. We will build and support small faith communities where all may grow in friendship with Christ and one another.
2. We will demonstrate respect for all parishioners and their unique journeys of faith.
3. We will commit ourselves as a parish to build well-formed leadership at all levels of parish life.
4. We will grow the community and friendship dimensions of our life together as a parish.
5. We will focus on youth, young adults, and young families of our parish to build for the future.
6. We will continue to use Religious Education and Saint Joseph School to facilitate spiritual growth in children and families.
7. We will increase our communications efforts, including the use of technology.
8. We will maintain an open heart and spirit by embracing the unique challenges and needs of one another.
9. We will provide and support programming to assist parishioners in naming and understanding their gifts and strengths.
10. We will steward our resources responsibly.