

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 —

9. I will make a commitment to financially support our parish.

“You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.” *2 Corinthians 9:11-12*

§1. The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers. §2. They are also obliged to promote social justice and, mindful of the precept of the Lord, to assist the poor from their own resources.

Canon 222, The Catholic Code of Canon Law,

10. I will participate in a variety of communication opportunities including focus groups.

“If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 2:1-5*

“Then they prayed, ‘You Lord know the hearts of all, show which one you have chosen...’ The community of believers was of one mind and one heart...and great favor was accorded them all.”

Acts of the Apostles, 1:24 & 4:32-33

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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“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 Our Parish —

9. We will provide and support programming to assist parishioners in naming and understanding their gifts and strengths.

“Now in regard to spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. But one and same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.” *1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7, 11*

“From the reception of these charisms or gifts, including those which are less dramatic, there arise for each believer the right and duty to use them in the Church and the world for the good of humankind and for the up building of the church.”

Vatican II, Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People

10. We will steward our resources responsibly.

“Even more to the point, Christians are called to be good stewards of the personal vocation they receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments responsibilities and roles to which God calls him or her.” *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops*

“Stewardship plays an important role in the lives of people who seek to follow Christ. Catholics have a duty, too, to be stewards of their Church: that community of disciples, that body of Christ, of which they individually and together are members.” *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops*

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.