

BUILDING



THE NEW REALITY



A PLAN FOR UNITY AND GROWTH

2024-2027



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	01
Vision Statement	02
1. Fostering Parish Unity	03
2. Faith Formation for Children, Youth, and Adults	03
3. Youth Engagement	04
4. Culture of Stewardship	04
5. Discipleship and Evangelization	05
6. Liturgical Life	05
Next Steps	06
Acknowledgements	06

INTRODUCTION

The 2024-2027 Pastoral Plan for St. John XXIII Parish is here!

After a nine-month consultation and planning effort led by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), we are excited to share with you the new parish vision statement and the six priorities identified for building a new reality for St. John XXIII Parish. Your feedback, thoughtful ideas, and suggestions, along with input from the Parish Finance Council (PFC), have been instrumental in creating this plan, and we are grateful. The planning process is described in greater detail on the parish website at stjohn23evanston.org/PPP.

Reflecting on the listening session feedback in particular, it is clear that St. John XXIII Parish is still in the early stages of uniting two longstanding parish communities. During the next three years, it will be critical to continue to build relationships across the legacy parishes, strengthen stewardship and operations, and tackle other areas of challenge. Unity and trust are essential if the parish is to thrive now and in the future.

It is important to note that most of the core parish ministries already in place will not change. RCIA, social justice initiatives, sacramental preparation, and other vital activities will continue.

What happens next? The next phase, implementing the pastoral plan, will be taken up by teams of parish volunteers. This means that you can be a part of this exciting effort! Over the spring and summer, we will be asking parishioners to step up to lead the development of strategies for each of the six priorities.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT



WE MAKE THE KINGDOM OF GOD PRESENT IN OUR WORLD BY LOVING GOD, WELCOMING ALL, SERVING HUMANITY, AND CARING FOR CREATION.



1. FOSTERING PARISH UNITY



DEFINITION

Recognizing that we are stronger together and building upon the legacy of our pasts, St. John XXIII Parish strives to nurture a vibrant parish community with meaningful relationships. As one body in Christ, we recognize and honor our differences while fostering a unified sense of belonging and shared purpose.

OUTCOMES: Success in achieving this priority could be measured by the number of relationships that are built between members of the two legacy parishes, by the frequency with which parishioners attend liturgies and other events at their non-legacy parish, and by the creation of new activities and traditions that engage parishioners from both legacy parishes.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES: Faith sharing groups with participants from both legacy parishes and new fellowship events are examples of possible strategies to achieve this goal.

2. FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

DEFINITION

Faith formation invites parishioners of all ages into a deeper relationship with Jesus, promotes an active participation in our Christian community, and helps us to live out our baptismal call to spread the Good News and work for justice in the world.



OUTCOMES: Success in achieving this priority could be measured by the number of people who strongly recommend the parish's religious education programs and the number of people (particularly young adults) who participate regularly in classes or workshops on the Catholic faith.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES: Rethinking/reorganizing the parish religious education programs and creating a catechetical board to plan faith formation activities are examples of possible strategies to achieve this goal.

3. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

DEFINITION

Youth engagement supports and encourages our parish youth (grades 6-12) to be engaged young Catholics beyond the Sacrament of Confirmation, giving them the opportunity to explore and develop their identities as parishioners and as active participants in a personal relationship with Christ. This includes empowering our youth to practice living as Christ's disciples in the world through witness, service, ministry, and leadership.



OUTCOMES: Success in achieving this priority could be measured by an increase in the number of young people who play active roles in parish liturgy, ministries, and leadership and the number of young people who strongly recommend the parish.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES: Activities organized and led by youth, youth representation on the Parish Pastoral Council, and regular youth-led Masses are examples of possible strategies to achieve this goal.

4. CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP



DEFINITION

A culture of stewardship at St. John XXIII Parish means recognizing that we are the Church and that each of us has God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure. We receive these gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in solidarity with others, and return them generously to our faith community.

OUTCOMES: Success in achieving this priority could be measured by the number of people (particularly young adults) involved in parish ministries, increases in offertory giving and the use of online giving, and the achievement of a balanced budget in fiscal year 2026-27.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES: Improved communication and outreach for parish ministries and expanded stewardship efforts are examples of possible strategies to achieve this goal.

5. DISCIPLESHIP AND EVANGELIZATION



DEFINITION

In Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we find the fullness of life and salvation. Discipleship and evangelization at St. John XXIII Parish mean growing our knowledge of and love for Christ so that we may bear witness to the Good News and make the Kingdom of God present in our world.

OUTCOMES: Success in achieving this priority could be measured by the number of parishioners who believe that the parish equips them to have conversations about their faith and by the frequency with which parishioners share their faith with others.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES: Providing the Alpha course to help parishioners explore their faith and learn to share it with others is an example of a possible strategy to achieve this goal.

6. LITURGICAL LIFE

DEFINITION

Recognizing the Eucharist as the “source and summit of the Christian life” through which “the work of our redemption is accomplished” (Second Vatican Council), we strive to celebrate vibrant, inclusive, and life-giving liturgies that bring us closer to God, build community, and form us into missionary disciples of Christ.



OUTCOMES: Success in achieving this priority could be measured by increases in the number of people (particularly young adults) who attend Mass, participate in liturgical ministries, and believe the Eucharist is the Real Presence of the body and blood of Christ.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES: Offering liturgical formation that deepens understanding of the Mass and the importance of the assembly’s participation, increasing awareness of the Liturgy Commission and its work, providing opportunities for dialogue about the liturgy to build shared understandings and improved practices are examples of possible strategies to achieve this goal.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Implementing the priorities in the pastoral plan will begin over the next six months. Teams of parish leaders will be assembled to identify the best strategies to reach the outcomes specified for each priority. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will help these “priority teams” put together workplans and budgets and identify the staff and volunteer roles needed to put the plan into action.

As St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord.” To achieve the goals in this pastoral plan we need everyone’s gifts! We urge all parishioners to reflect and pray on the plan and consider how you might participate. Remember, you are our future!



If you are interested in learning more about a priority and how you might get involved, scan the QR code or visit stjohn23evanston.org/PPP to express your interest. As always, you can contact the parish councils through the contact forms at the bottom of their respective pages on the parish website: stjohn23evanston.org/PPC and [/PFC](http://stjohn23evanston.org/PFC).

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt “thank you” to the hundreds of parishioners who shared their honest thoughts, hopes, and vision for our parish through the Disciple Maker Index Survey and the Parish Listening Sessions, as well as one-on-one with members of the PPC and Parish Finance Council (PFC). Your voices were heard; the Councils thank you!

Thank you also to the PPC and the PFC, who spent countless hours poring over parishioners’ feedback and responses. With our unique faith community in mind, they prayerfully discerned and considered these priorities, which became the St. John XXIII Parish Pastoral Plan for 2024-2027. The council members are listed below.



Parish Pastoral Council

Cliff Barber
Shelley Benson
Matt Brands
Jim Burke
Sara Delva
Krista Gliva

Tom Lenz
Charles Loiseau
Alex Lule-Rivera
Pablo Sanchez
Rob Sullivan
Pat Trafton
Cathleen “Cat” Wolfe

Parish Finance Council

Brian Bigelow
Erika Castro
Mary Doucette
Mary Erikson
Len Grinstead
Jay Larmee

Suzanne Lefevre
Karen Przyppyszny

Pastors

Fr. Koudjo K.
Jean-Philippe Lokpo
Fr. José Manuel Ortiz Sanchez

