

Vision Committee Oral Report to Parish #4

November 4-5, 2023

Good morning/evening,

I am (your name) from the St Joseph Vision Committee. My fellow committee members, (name those present) and I would like to provide you with a brief update.

The Vision Committee is now in its second year. We met this October and we plan to meet again on Friday, November 17. So today we'd like to report on progress made and plans for the future.

Faith Development is a major goal in every parish. Our three faith sharing groups that met last Lent will be meeting again in advent. If you'd like to join a faith sharing group or create your own, please email Fr. Jim this week. You'll be interested to know that we will also be starting a Bible Study program on Sunday, November 26. More information will follow. And thanks to the Liturgy Committee, we're all learning more about our faith through the Liturgical Moments.

You'll also be happy to know that St. Joe's is undergoing a growth spurt! Many families with young children are now attending mass here, especially at the 9:00 Mass. The plan is to include more and more children in ministry roles at that mass. In addition, our religious education families have doubled in number since last year. Finally, we've noticed that people are hanging out after mass, chatting and creating community, even when no food is being served!! If you have recently started attending St. Joe's and need to register, see one of us after Mass or simply register through the website.

The ministry fair held last May yielded a great number of new volunteers, but we could still use more members on our Hospitality Team, which is run by Joan Walsh. Please consider volunteering for baking, set up, and clean up on the Sunday's when refreshments are served. To get involved, contact Joan, whose email is in the bulletin.

Speaking of the Parish Bulletin, are you aware that our parish website hosts a complete calendar of events? Take a look at sjcmaplewoodnj.org. The website address is also printed in the bulletin.

One of our ongoing concerns is engaging our young adults. To this end, we will be meeting with our recently confirmed members, who can give us the best insight about what they might be looking for. If any adult has an interest in working on this, please email Fr. Jim.

Please talk to one of us after mass today or next week if you have new ideas, concerns, or questions. Thanks!