

Vision Committee Oral Report to Parish #5

January 20-21, 2024

Good morning/evening,

I am (your name) from the St Joseph Vision Committee. My fellow committee members and I would like to provide you with a brief update based on our most recent meeting.

Our three faith sharing groups met again during Advent. They will resume during Lent. Think about whether or not you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity by joining an existing group or starting your own. Lent begins February 14! Email Fr. Jim if you are interested.

A Bible Study program will begin soon. More information will follow. And thanks to the Liturgy Committee, our Liturgical Moments will continue on the Sundays of Lent. We hope to provide printed versions of the Liturgical Moments and of these oral reports on our website in the very near future.

One area of great concern that was raised during our Synod discussions last year was attending to the needs of the young people in our parish. To that end, the 9:00 Mass has become very inclusive of our youngsters who now participate as ushers, lectors, cantors, and offertory gift bearers. As far as our adolescents go, conversations with our confirmation preparation program coordinator revealed that our high school age parishioners are most interested in opportunities for service. To this end, we will be launching two major service projects each year. The first one, creating Blessing Bags for the underserved, will begin in early February. Collecting items for the Blessing Bags will be a parishwide effort, but we will rely on high school age parishioners to assemble the bags later this spring. If there is an adult among you who would like to volunteer to coordinate this effort, please see me or Fr. Jim after Mass. The Blessing Bag hopefully will attract those of you who signed up for the Sandwich Ministry last May.

The Hospitality Team, which is run by Joan Walsh, is always looking for additional help. Please consider volunteering for baking, set up, and/or 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.

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