

Vision Committee Oral Report to Parish #10

November 23-24, 2024

Good morning/evening,

I am (your name) from the St Joseph Vision Committee. I am here to give you a brief update based on our most recent meeting.

This past Friday evening, the youth of our parish gathered to make sandwiches for the hungry. The youth in our Religious Ed program also helped the hungry by sponsoring a food drive. Keeping young people engaged is our goal. We know they love giving service. If you know of any opportunities for youth to serve the Maplewood community, please let Fr. Jim know.

Special thanks to parishioner Dave McGrath, who has volunteered to lead our photobook project. We want to be clear that this photobook will be print-only. We don't want any of our pix, especially those of our youngsters, on-line. Dave is now in the process of setting up two ways to collect family photos. You'll be able to submit your own family photo, or Dave will set up photo appointments at the start of the New Year. Specifics will be available in a special flyer within the next few weeks. To be clear, the book is for parishioners only and will contain only your family photo along with your names. No addresses or phone numbers will be included. We'd love to have wide participation, so give this some thought.

We are happy to announce that the Archdiocese has approved our Capital Campaign. Those who already made pledges will be contacted in February to begin their three-year payment plan. If you were not contacted during the feasibility study, you will still have ample opportunity to participate. Our new roof, replete with solar panels, and a new HVAC system are just within our reach.

We are opening up our Holy Family Meeting Room on Sundays during the 9:00am Mass for our little parishioners to have a place to gather under the

supervision of volunteers. Activities will be available during their time there. We have many young children who come to Mass, and we are thrilled to have them.

You may be interested in knowing that Sr. Donna, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, attended the last meeting of the Vision Committee to see how well we function as a Parish Pastoral Council. Sister was very impressed with our efforts and our results. She even asked if she could use our agenda, minutes, and oral report as a sample for other parishes. High praise indeed.

Due to an overwhelming response, our Ministry Appreciation Mixer has been rescheduled to the spring. If you are a volunteer or minister in the parish, please reset your calendar for Sunday, May 4 at 4pm. The event will be held here in the church.

The Vision Committee would like to applaud and thank the Parish Liturgy Committee, and especially Marybeth Walsh, the chair of that group, who writes our Liturgical Moments. Our faith is enhanced by these amazing insights. Liturgical Moments will resume in Lent, but you can find all four existing series on our website under Media Resources, if you'd like to read them at your leisure. In fact, this oral report is listed there as well.

We have three existing faith sharing groups. One meets year-round, the other two meet during Advent and Lent. The idea of small faith sharing groups will be explained in more detail in the next issue of our newsletter called the Pilgrimage. If you'd like to join a group or start a new group, get in touch with Fr. Jim. He'll be running a leadership training in January.

Did you notice that our QR pew cards are missing? They are currently being updated. One new addition will be a QR code for VENMO for one time donations.

Please let Fr. Jim know if you have new ideas, concerns, or questions. We'd love to hear from you.