

# ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH

## *Pastoral Plan*

***“Devoted to Christ as disciples, we help others become disciples, and work to renew our culture.”***

—ST. JOHN VIANNEY MISSION STATEMENT

### ***Letter from Pastor***

Each year the Easter Vigil liturgy begins outside the church where the priest blesses the Paschal Candle with the following words, *“Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to him and all the ages. To Him be glory and power through every age forever- Amen.”* The power of those words burn in our hearts as the Paschal Candle is then lit. As our parish embarks on a pastoral plan for the future, I pray that each of us senses an intense call from the Holy Spirit to live for Christ and his Gospel, and to joyfully bear much fruit for Him.

May God bless us all,  
Fr. Chuck

### ***The Purpose of our Pastoral Plan***

Vital parts of the life of a parish are vibrant and effective ministries and programs that connect our parishioners not only to the church but also to each of us as one body of Christ. We learned from the surveys conducted in April of 2015, that parishioners are interested in ministries that focus on Catholic Education and Faith Formation. The surveys also recognized the importance of caring for our parish facilities as well as transparency of the overall financial condition and needs for the parish and school. In addition, Fr. Chuck Kelly has recognized the need for the parish community to become more involved in the Liturgy.

The purpose of our Pastoral Plan is to call to our attention the needs of the church today and also effectively plan for the future. Having a Pastoral Plan in place will help guide us all as we seek to improve our current programs and also build a foundation for future program and facility investments. As Catholics, we must effectively do both so that we can continue to build the Kingdom of God here in Rancho Cordova.

# KEY PASTORAL INITIATIVES

## ***Understanding the Mass***

The Mass is the source and summit of our Christian life. It is the source because Jesus Christ, the source of holiness and salvation personally comes to make a complete gift of Himself to us. It is the summit because there is no greater gift given to man than the person of Jesus Christ. We desire that Mass be celebrated in such a way that all present find Christ irresistible.

## **VISION**

All who participate in the Mass at SJV have a deep love and understanding of and appreciation for its significance, its elements, its process and its flow, so that they are fully drawn into its experience and look forward to participating in Mass often.

## **ACTION STEPS**

1. Assemble a team to create a plan that will focus on how we can better understand the Mass
2. Review how we celebrate and perform our Masses for our different congregations
3. Conduct workshops for all on the significance, elements, process and flow of the Mass; information will also be available on line
4. Assemble trained teams of parishioners to support all aspects of conducting the Mass

## ***Liturgy***

Parishioner involvement in the Liturgy is the pinnacle in which all other ministries will flourish and thrive. Celebrating our faith through the Mass is how we live a life that is Christ centered.

### **VISION**

St. John Vianney liturgies draw all people to Jesus Christ by how they are conducted, what they impart and how they motivate people to live the Gospel message.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Improve parish communication to ensure that parishioners are aware of volunteer opportunities for our Liturgical Ministries
2. Improve training for all of our Liturgical Ministries
3. Direct outreach under the direction of Fr. Chuck Kelly to all parishioners to become more involved
4. Include all the Liturgical Ministries in an annual Ministry Awareness Fair to encourage all parishioners to find a place to share their talents

## ***Catholic School***

The Rancho Cordova community is blessed to have a Catholic elementary school (K-8) that is available to serve the youth of our parish. Enrollment at our school is approaching 250 students for the 2015-16 school year, which is up from the previous year. Catholic schools offer a high quality education to families who are interested in being educated in an environment where we learn and serve Christ in a gospel environment.

### **VISION**

St. John Vianney School is seen throughout the community as offering the best elementary education in all subject areas, with a high success record by its graduates in secondary and post-secondary programs, while simultaneously forming value-based, community oriented loving and caring young people prepared and motivated to change the culture toward Gospel values.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Identify new sources of revenue to increase scholarships and financial aid to parish families
2. Conduct an enrollment fair for all parishioners to gain better awareness of the school
3. Continue to support the financial needs of the school through existing financial sources such as second collections, parish reserves and ONE Campaign contributions

## ***Children's Faith Formation (ages 5-14)***

Families with children in our parish deserve to be properly formed in the faith. Parents should be respected as their children's primary catechists and the spiritual leaders of their families. Formation should be provided for all family members. It should be relevant, engaging, accessible and affordable.

### **VISION**

It is our desire that St. John Vianney families are enrolled in, value, and benefit from a well-developed and practical education and support program that helps parents by providing knowledge, resources and support as they work to have a strong Christian values based formation environment in their home.

Faith Formation for children should be coupled with faith formation offerings for their parents. All parents should have the training and resources they need to properly form their families in the faith and properly lead their domestic churches.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Class size in faith formation should be analyzed to ensure effectiveness
2. Parent sessions/groups/workshops/bible study, etc. will be offered every time children's faith formation or Sacramental preparation is offered
3. Live classes for catechist certification will be offered at St. John Vianney every year
4. By 2016-2017, all catechists for Sacramental preparation (First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation) will be certified. All other catechists will either be certified or working toward certification
5. Opportunities for families to form their faith online will be offered starting in 2017-2018
6. Parish will provide support groups for parents, especially new parents and those with special needs
7. These programs will be open and inviting to all families, those with students at SJV School and those in any other school

## ***Youth Ministry (ages 15-18)***

Teenagers are not only the church of the future; they are the church of today. St. John Vianney seeks to invite every teen in our parish boundaries into a relationship with Jesus and empower them to be Disciples of Christ, to engage teens in the life and leadership of the parish community, and to foster the personal and spiritual growth of each teen.

### **VISION**

The youth and their families of the Rancho Cordova area recognize and are drawn to the SJV youth programs because of their quality, relevance, and appeal. Our programs will provide teens valuable opportunities to develop strong values, good behavior patterns, and respectful relationships that will be their foundation for the rest of their lives.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Capital will be raised to hire a full time youth minister
2. A team of at least 20 young adults will be recruited and formed to be youth ministers/mentors for youth
3. Parish will seek strategic partnerships to bring exciting and relevant programs to the group
4. Parish will collaborate with other parishes in the deanery to share best practices and gain a better understanding of quality programs and initiatives for our group

## ***Young Adult Ministry***

Young adults in their 20s and 30s are a gift to the church and their active participation in parish life is extremely important for the present and future health of our parish. St. John Vianney seeks to welcome and encourage young adult members to be actively involved and take on leadership roles in the parish.

### **VISION**

The SJV Young Adult Program is recognized widely as a model for attracting and engaging young adults and providing them with value-based educational, social, and recreational opportunities that help them understand and live the Gospel values. Our programs will support young adults as they grow into their careers and adult relationships.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. A young adult ministry planning team will be formed and will reflect the composition of our community. It will be made up of young adults in their 20s and 30s
2. A day long young adult ministry training will be held in 2016-2017
3. A young adult discernment retreat will be held in the parish once a year
4. An effort will be made to connect young adult leaders from the deanery for possible regional events or ministries
5. As appropriate, mentoring or counseling may be arranged for special needs
6. As may be useful, young adult ministries will be developed for those who are married or engaged

## ***Adult Faith Formation***

One of the greatest gifts we are given by God is the gift of our faith. Being a good steward of the gift of faith requires us to intentionally form our faith from cradle to grave. Helping adult Catholics to grow in their faith, to develop their spiritual life and to increase their knowledge of the Church is vital to having a thriving parish.

### **VISION**

The adult faith formation program at SJV Parish is so appealing, interesting and effective that all parishioners are drawn to participate in our various ministries.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Parish will host the Called and Gifted workshop, followed up by the formation of small faith sharing groups in the parish
2. Parish will host a series of focus groups to determine the best topics and delivery system for faith formation offerings for adults.
3. Parish will offer online Faith Formation opportunities for parents and families by 2017-2018

## ***Volunteerism***

Our Catholic community is made vibrant by fostering a community that brings all of our parishioners together. An effective and proven way to accomplish this is through our volunteer efforts. Volunteers bring our many ministries to life. Without a reliable group of volunteers, our ministries simply will not flourish. When parishioners volunteer, they also feel more connected to the Church. It is important that parishioners are given an opportunity to find a ministry in order to share their talent and become entwined in the life of the Church

### **VISION**

SJV Parish has a reputation for attracting, developing and supporting excellent, dedicated and energized volunteers in all its ministries so that our programs are recognized as exemplary and effective.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Through surveys and personal interviews, develop and continually update a data base of talents and interests that allows us to connect people with needs
2. Better communicate the needs of our parish and make volunteer opportunities more readily accessible
3. Evaluate each ministry to determine its effectiveness, its needs, and its organization. Where appropriate, make recommendations to strengthen a ministry
4. Evaluate the current program leaders and determine if we need to re-organize certain groups
5. Create and celebrate a greater sense of gratitude and express greater appreciation for those who give of their time and talents

## ***Facilities***

Since its inception, the parish continues to grow; therefore it is imperative that we adhere to a comprehensive plan that addresses the on-going maintenance and repair needs of the existing facilities, and a long term plan for any needed expansions. Today, there are over 2500 registered families and this number will most likely increase in size over the next 10 years. Many more people live in the parish boundaries who should be attracted to be parishioners. As Catholics, we are responsible for meeting the needs of the parish today and planning for the future. To that end, the parish must also care for and understand the facility needs of the school building and multi-purpose facilities.

### **VISION**

The physical facilities of the parish are well maintained and needs are anticipated and budgeted for. A comprehensive plan will be created that will address current needs as well as future projects. These plans include projections for providing funding and timelines.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. The Finance Council and the Pastoral Council, working with a Facilities Committee, will update and prioritize the master plan for the facilities throughout the parish campus
2. The Facilities Committee will work closely with the school administration to better understand the on-going needs of the school from both a maintenance standpoint as well as space and infrastructure
3. The parish will create a financial plan to address the current and future facility needs of the parish campus

## ***Fiscal Stability and Parish Operational Oversight***

We are called to be good stewards of the blessings and treasures that God has entrusted to us. Today, the parish is fortunate that it is able to meet its financial needs and obligations. However, we must find strategic and unique ways to increase offertory, seek greater capital investments and explore ways that will lead to an increase in parishioner planned giving and financial contributions.

### **VISION**

SJV Parish has a solid and growing financial base from which to fund its ministries and operations. All parishioners understand and are committed to providing the financial support on a steady and continuing basis so that special fundraising activities are not needed and all ministries have the resources they require. The management of the parish business is trusted and parishioners are provided clear and regular reports of our financial condition and future needs. This includes building and maintaining an appropriate reserve to cover unanticipated needs, and to rebuild that reserve if it is tapped.

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Evaluate the current Parish Finance Council to ensure that we have the right human resources needed to effectively manage the capacity moving forward
2. Evaluate our current business management system to identify areas where improvements may be needed, and take actions to make any needed improvements in order to assure parishioners are confident that all our resources are being well managed and used. Assure that we have the right staffing resources to effectively administer the parish
3. Begin developing a mindset and culture among all parishioners that fosters an eagerness to support their parish, by describing what sound management practices are being employed, what current costs are, what the costs of desired ministry enhancements are, and the financial gap between parish revenue and expenses
4. Work with selected parish leadership to head these conversations in a small group or even one-to-one basis so that people feel respected as they are informed and asked for advice
5. Publish and distribute the Annual Report to the Faithful (ARF) each year so that parishioners are well informed on the overall financial condition of the parish