

# ***St John of the Cross Parish***

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*We thank you, the members of  
Saint John of the Cross Parish,  
for having the 20/20 Vision and making this  
Parish Pastoral Plan possible!*

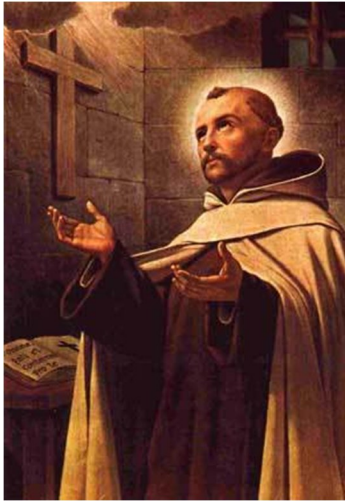


**2020**  
**VISION** | **St. John  
of the Cross**  
Planning for the  
Next Decade

***St. John of the Cross Parish***

***Pastoral Plan***

***2011***



***"Where there is no love, put love  
and you will find love."***

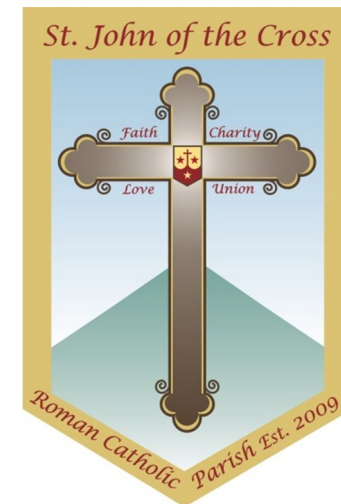
*~St. John of the Cross*

### **Saint John of the Cross Parish Mission Statement**

We are the Catholic Community of St. John of the Cross, established in 2009. Uniting the people of God as one family, we are rooted in and empowered by our sacramental life and Eucharistic celebrations.

Living as disciples of Jesus Christ, we recognize our God-given potential and challenge one another to share our giftedness, embrace our diversity and engage in social outreach, service and education. In doing so, we seek to extend the reign of God in Euclid and the wider community.

By participating in the 20/20 Vision process and sharing your stories and dreams for our pastoral planning effort, you have helped a core group develop this long range plan. Remember, this plan is not an end but a beginning, a foundation for developing our parish's future. It reflects what is most important to parishioners and establishes a plan to achieve those goals. We hope that once you have read this plan, you will reflect on it and discern your role in creating the future of St. John of the Cross.



"Though the path is plain and smooth for men of good will, he who walks it will not travel far, and will do so only with difficulty, if he does not have good feet: that is, courage and a persevering spirit."

*~St. John of the Cross*

## The 20/20 Vision of Our Parishioners

“The parish gives me a sense of belonging. It always feels like I have a home to come to in my parish family.”

“This place revs me up! I found new vibrancy to my faith.”

## Pastoral Plan Goals

### Vibrant Liturgy and Worship

**Goal:** Increase the appreciation for, understanding of, and participation in worship.

### A Welcoming, Inviting, Accepting Community

**Goal:** Sustain and enhance the “personal touch” to parishioners and visitors.

**Goal:** Maintain programs that welcome new or potential parishioners.

### Reaching Out Within and Beyond Our Parish

**Goal:** Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the parish community of St. John of the Cross.

**Goal:** Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of all faiths in Euclid and surrounding communities.

### Sharing Our Giftedness

**Goal:** Create and sustain an environment that encourages parishioners to recognize and utilize their giftedness.

### Religious Education

**Goal:** Provide parishioners of all ages with religious education opportunities rooted in Catholic teaching, values and morals.

## The 20/20 Vision of Our Parishioners

"The moments of celebration that we share bring us together to form a community."

"I love all the music in the liturgy. The sung celebration of Eucharist makes me feel closer to Jesus."

"Baptisms here are so rewarding as they show the enthusiasm of the birth of a life in Christ."

"The importance of the sacraments in our lives – this parish has taught us the beauty of rites and rituals."

"Having the congregation pray the discipleship prayer is so rewarding."

## Religious Education

How can we understand that which we do not know? Our faith is a vibrant and living experience, if we are open to all the opportunities to explore its wonders. We need to stay rooted in our rich traditions and understand what we do and why we do it. We need to learn as much as we can about the sacraments and the gospel teachings, so we can be the best disciples of our Faith.

**Goal:** Provide parishioners of all ages with religious education opportunities rooted in Catholic teaching, values and morals.

1. Engage all members of families in the religious education and faith formation programs.
2. Provide appropriate sacramental preparation and faith formation opportunities for parishioners of all ages and backgrounds.
3. Encourage parishioners to identify their spiritual needs and desires in order to support them in forming new ministries and formation opportunities.

## The 20/20 Vision of Our Parishioners

"My children come home singing church songs."

"The day school and PSR at St. John of the Cross teach children that their spiritual life *IS* their regular life."

"Opportunities for Scripture study and other learning have enriched my faith."

"I came into the church as an adult. I was recently invited to become an Extraordinary Minister, and I have to say, offering the Eucharist, I can truly feel the presence of Christ."

"I was pleased with my son's positive experience participating in confirmation preparation."

## Vibrant Liturgy and Worship

As Catholic Christians, our primary worship focus is the celebration of Eucharist. Our desire is to create a community that celebrates our faith with joy, devotion and reverence, with celebrations that appeal to all of our community. We seek a rich liturgical experience for all parishioners and visitors.

**Goal:** Increase the appreciation for, understanding of, and participation in worship.

1. Continue to build and establish a consistent and diverse repertoire of music that engages the entire parish community.
2. Educate parishioners through a wide range of faith formation opportunities.
3. Continue to recruit and form liturgical ministers (Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist, Servers, Ushers, Hospitality).

## The 20/20 Vision of Our Parishioners

"St. John of the Cross has offered me a larger family with new friendships that are constantly growing."

"We are the Church. It is the people that give life to the parish."

"As a visitor, the parishioners made us feel welcome here. They even asked our names."

"It feels like my parish family is waiting for me to arrive when I am greeted at the doors of the church."

"I feel my contributions are welcome and appreciated by the whole parish family."

## Sharing Our Giftedness

On the eve of his Crucifixion, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, his friends, those he taught and loved. We are each called to serve in our own way, but we are called to serve. We need to discern the gifts that we have been blessed with and offer them to the greater community.

**Goal:** Create and sustain an environment that encourages parishioners to recognize and utilize their giftedness.

1. Make ministerial needs/volunteer opportunities known to parishioners.
2. Invite parishioners to get involved in parish ministries.
3. Acknowledge and thank parishioners who share their gifts.
4. Promote stewardship as a way of life and discipleship in the parish.

"God is more pleased by one work, however small, done secretly, without desire it be known, than a thousand done with the desire that men know of them."

*~St. John of the Cross*

## The 20/20 Vision of Our Parishioners

"Through my involvement with various ministries at St. John of the Cross, I have been humbled by the opportunity to serve."

"After volunteering for the first time at our parish I was inspired to listen for Christ more."

"Ministering to the sick and homebound has personally enhanced my own prayer life."

"We are blessed by the fact that we have so many ministries. When we are involved we feel better about ourselves and develop a greater sense of family."

## A Welcoming, Inviting, Accepting Community

We want to create an environment that makes people feel welcome and want to expand their faith beyond weekly Eucharistic celebration. We want people to know each other and assist their parish family members on their journey of faith.

**Goal:** Sustain and enhance the "personal touch" to parishioners and visitors.

1. Make sure that all parish organizations, councils, and committees are in alignment with the welcoming approach established in these steps.
2. Continue current practices of the Hospitality Ministry, Usher Ministry and standing to welcome each other at Mass. Hospitality and Ushers need to be encouraged in assisting parishioners as needed. When ministries have events in the gathering area before or after Mass, have them engage the assembly.
3. Ensure the presence and personal interaction of the Pastor and Staff at Mass and parish events. Create the vehicle by which the parish leaders, i.e. Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Parish Committee chairs, can personally greet and interact with parishioners and visitors before or after events. Look at the possibility of including nametags.

**Goal:** Maintain programs that welcome new or potential parishioners.

1. Give visitors, guests and new parishioners the opportunity to be recognized at liturgies.
2. Continue to make available to new and potential visitors the appropriate informational materials, through such vehicles as a Welcome Packet or Welcome Wagon.
3. New parishioners should receive follow up phone calls to draw them into the community.
4. Consider bringing back the Discipleship Prayer as a means to unite us in prayer at the start of the Liturgy.

## The 20/20 Vision of Our Parishioners

"During a recent hospitalization, I was ministered to by a fellow parishioner that I did not previously know was even in the parish."

"I felt the concern of the parish the most for the outside community when we prayed the rosary outside Richmond Heights medical center in protest of their change in abortion policy, and our efforts were rewarded."

"Saint John of the Cross has responded to the needs of those outside our parish community with the parish's involvement with IHN."

"The food collection baskets show that we have concern for the needs of others outside our parish family."

"The groups served by the gifts from the Giving Tree cross geographic and religious borders."

## Reaching Out Within and Beyond Our Parish

The Lord challenged his disciples to spread the Word. We are each called to discipleship in our faith at our Confirmation. Our individual commitment to spreading the Word, through the way we live our lives and share the Lord's message, is a gift beyond measure.

**Goal:** Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the parish community of St. John of the Cross.

1. Actively evangelize in a way that allows our faith community to grow spiritually.
2. Reach out to those who are not involved.
3. Create a ride share program for those who find it difficult to get to Mass.
4. Strengthen the bonds between Parish and School, i.e. find ways for the School to be present at Sunday Liturgies and the Parish to be present and supportive of our school.

**Goal:** Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of all faiths in Euclid and surrounding communities.

1. Maintain a presence of collaboration with the other Euclid parishes.
2. Be attentive to the physical needs of the wider community and respond appropriately.
3. Be attentive to the spiritual needs of the wider community and to respond appropriately in a spirit of ecumenism.

"The Lord measures our perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them."

*~St. John of the Cross*