



St. Joan of Arc Parish Strategic Plan (2024 – 2029)

Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

Empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Sacramental life of the Church, we strive to love God and one another through prayer, education, and service.

Vision and Values Statements

- We believe that every person is created in the image of God and has infinite worth.
 - We believe that the Catholic Church was established by Jesus Christ and is the instrument for the salvation of the world.
 - We believe that God has called us to engage our community by providing inspiration in worship, hospitality, and catechesis.
 - We believe that evangelization is the vocation of every Catholic.
 - We believe that a life of faith involves: regular participation in the liturgy, prayer, ongoing formation, and participation in ministries that transform lives.
 - We believe that stewardship is essential as an expression of our faith and hope for the future of our parish.
 - We believe that diversity is valuable, and we support that value through our programs and ministries.
 - We believe that the social teachings of the Church are expressed in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy that are undertaken by our parish ministries.
 - We believe that the parish should strive for continual growth through critical evaluation and by listening to and being guided by the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
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Tagline and Key Messages

Tagline: “*Tradition with Vision*”

Parish Key Message:

“Living in Faith with Courage and Integrity”

Our parishioners seek to live with courage and integrity in imitation of our patroness, St. Joan of Arc.

School Key Message:

The mission of St. Joan of Arc School is to provide students with a firm foundation in the Catholic faith and the means to achieve academic excellence.

Ministry Key Message:

“Striving for deeper holiness, greater communion and wider service.”

Through a variety of ministries, our parish serves Christ in those who are in need.

Diocesan Framework for Pastoral Change

The Diocese of Joliet’s Framework for Pastoral Action is centered on the pastoral and ministerial needs of Catholics within the Diocese at all levels of faith and participation. This Framework for Pastoral Action is not focused on our financial or strategic needs. Instead, it looks at ways to build community and to strengthen faith. In fact, it delineates, as well as we can, how Christ and the Holy Spirit are fulfilling their mission through us here and now.

The Framework is centered on three pillars, outlined below, which build upon each other. The guidelines and teachings of the Framework have been incorporated into our own Parish Strategic Plan at St. Joan of Arc.

1.) Discipleship

- Cultivate a personal encounter with Jesus to joyfully share the Gospel as a knowledgeable and responsible disciple.
- Inspire young adults to participate as lay leaders in the mission of the Catholic Church.
- Embrace immigrant Catholics and encourage their development as leaders in the Church.

2.) Evangelization

- Seek, invite, and welcome Catholics who have drifted away from the Church.
- Emphasize and outwardly proclaim the importance of the sacraments.

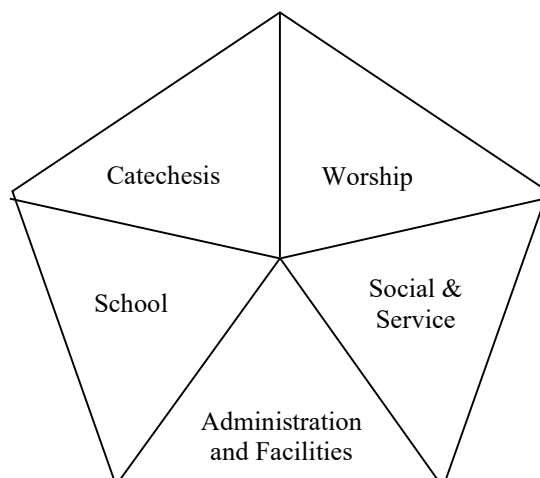
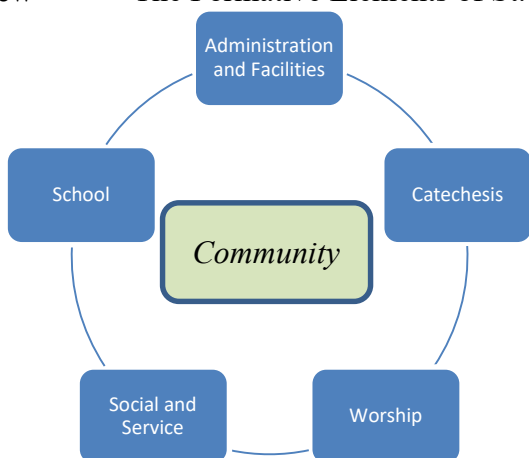
3.) Charity

- Go outside your church doors to care for people in need.
- Advocate for and with people in need as the Gospel instructs us to do.

Formative Elements

Overview

The Formative Elements of St. Joan of Arc Parish.



Definitions

Catechesis:

Catechesis, meaning “to echo the teaching,” is a participation in the mission of the one Teacher, Jesus Christ. The purpose of Catechesis is, “to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God’s eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person” (*Catechesi Tradendae*, 5) to people of all ages. It consists, therefore, in both fidelity to the content of the Faith as well as the cultivation of an intimate relationship with God. This teaching is expressed through Catholic Traditions of word, worship, service, and community. It seeks to equip parishioners with the foundation of knowledge and communion upon which to develop a vibrant faith that can be expressed at home in the Domestic Church, in the Parish, and beyond.

Worship:

Worship is humanity’s response to the experience of God, individually and communally.

Social and Service:

Providing spiritual and corporal services wherever there is a need.

School:

The mission of St. Joan of Arc School is to provide students with a firm foundation in the Catholic faith and the means to achieve academic excellence.

Administration and Facilities:

For the glory of God and for the safety of our parishioners, maintain the environment of all the facilities of the parish. Ensure proper staff and resources are in place for healthy operation of the campus.

Catechesis

Definition

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Goals:

Adult Formation

- Develop and launch seasonal, on-going Adult Faith Formation opportunities (i.e. Spring Small-Group Faith Study, Summer Pilgrimage/Mission Trips, Fall Retreat, etc.)
- Fully transition OCIA process from “9-month program” model to “Year-Round Cyclic” model by 2026. Increase parishioner support of this ministry by 100% by 2025 to meet demands of transition.

Child and Family Formation

- Develop an integrated catechesis program for parish parents (School and RE) by the end of 2026. This program will both form parents and encourage greater responsibility and involvement in child formation.
- Drive an increase in regular participation in the Eucharist of 20% by parish parents by the end of 2026, using 2023 as a baseline.
- Drive an increase in participation in specific events and related ministries for young adults by 20% by the end of 2026, using 2023 as a baseline.
- Develop resources to effectively minister to Hispanic families in RE, including a list of translators and list of Hispanic specific ministries across the Diocese by 2025.
- Increase the use of parishioner testimonials during both liturgy announcements and school or RE events in support of catechesis programs.

Parish and School-Wide

- Adopt and implement a Discipleship Pathway (e.g., FIND => ENCOUNTER => JOURNEY => WITNESS) – categorical framework for planning catechetical efforts to ensure events reach intended audience and achieve intended purpose by end of 2025.
- Establish an evangelization initiative that strives to attract inactive and new parishioners to St. Joan of Arc to achieve a 20% increase in participation in the Eucharist by the end of 2027, using 2023 as a baseline.
- Increase the availability of web-based resources for parishioners to access timely and vetted information on current issues affecting the Church and their faith.
- Launch sustainable adult group that creates time and space for parents and grandparents to discuss these issues regarding raising their families.
- Launch new Google calendar for Parishioner access to master schedule of all Faith Formation and Catechetical Events by end of 2024.

Worship

Definition and Purpose

Worship is humanity's response to the experience of God, individually and communally.

Within Roman Catholicism this response of worship is typically **Liturgical**.

- Liturgy is the official, public prayer of the church that has as its purposes:
 - The glorification of God
 - The sanctification (and formation) of people
- Liturgy is public and is regulated by official directives and the tradition of the church
- Liturgy includes:
 - The Eucharist
 - The 7 Sacraments
 - Liturgy of the Hours

There is also worship which is private or devotional, not officially mandated and left to individual preferences. This private worship includes:

- The Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Novenas
- Pius practices

It falls to the Pastor of the parish community, who represents the local bishop, to foster and safeguard the worship life of the parish most especially those aspects that are categorized liturgical. The Pastor does so with the assistance of:

- Associate Pastors
 - Deacons
 - Informed lay members of the parish
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Means by which the worship life of the Parish Community is fostered and maintained:

- Maintaining a commission that functions to:
 - Advise the Pastor on liturgical matters
 - Engage in regular and in-depth study of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist
- Foster a healthy respect for the laws and tradition that govern the liturgy
- Incorporate creative options for liturgical celebrations, where permitted
- Provide ongoing formation of Liturgical Ministers:
 - Ushers
 - Greeters
 - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
 - Lectors
 - Servers
 - Sacristans
 - Musicians

- Create and/or maintain an awareness and appreciation of the Liturgical Year:
 - Advent/Christmas
 - Lent/Easter
 - Ordinary Time
 - Feasts and solemnities especially those particular to the parish:
 - Feast of St. Benedict
 - Feast of St. Joan of Arc
- Provide adult formation on the liturgy and related topics particularly regarding the celebration of the sacraments, for example:
 - OCIA
 - Baptismal preparation of parents
 - Marriage preparation for couples
- Provide regular opportunities for the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick
- Provide regular opportunities for the individual celebration of Reconciliation
- Provide Communal Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent
- Encourage parish celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Vespers and Word Services during the various seasons of the Liturgical Year
- Oversee the liturgical formation of the parish school and RE children
- Supervise the maintenance of the liturgical environment and overall space of the church
- Continue to promote Eucharistic Adoration in the parish chapel
- Evaluate the care and quality of things used in the liturgy:
 - Vessels
 - Vestments
 - Sanctuary appointments
 - Sacred images
- Provide regular updates on any official changes and/or teachings of the church regarding the liturgy
- Search for ways to evaluate the liturgical life of the parish on a regular basis (every 2 – 3 years)
- Support the parish’s “Blended Approach” to liturgical music

**Music
Ministry**

Goals:

- Deepen the Catholic identity and faith of our parishioners.
- Encourage and promote full, active, and conscious participation in the Eucharistic liturgy.
- Keep the Gospel message relevant and meaningful to people’s lives today.
- Increase level of participation in all ministries.
- Actively recruit for Accompanist for Parish Choir and remaining Section Leader (Bass)

Social and Service

Definition Providing spiritual and corporal services wherever there is a need.

Vision Statement:

Outreach is core to defining St. Joan of Arc Parish's identity – every parishioner has an opportunity to participate in outreach and all will know the impact that St. Joan of Arc Parish has on the communities we serve at all levels.

Outreach is the manifestation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are now the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Outreach can be expressed in terms of the giving of time, talent, and treasure. We strive to serve the Church at all levels within the following community circles:

- The St. Joan of Arc Parish Community.
- Diocese of Joliet.
- The Church in the United States.
- The Universal Church.

The goal is to increase participation of the SJA community at all levels of outreach.

Inspirational Catholics:

- **St. Benedict and the Benedictine Tradition:** The Monks of St. Procopius Abbey established St. Joan of Arc Parish in 1924, and it is the Benedictine tradition that will drive our outreach. *Pray and Work* - The spirit of St. Benedict's Rule is summed up in the motto of the Benedictine Confederation: *pax* ("peace") and the traditional *ora et labora* ("pray and work") - Rule 53.
- **Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta-** "The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it."
- **Servant of God Dorothy Day** – An Oblate of St. Procopius Abbey, Day helped create the Catholic Worker movement with Peter Maurin. She is a role model for committing her life to providing corporal and spiritual works of mercy. "I firmly believe that our salvation depends on the poor."
- **St. Vincent DePaul** – Founder of the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to as the Vincentians, whose vocation is to follow Christ through service to those in need and to bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love.
- **Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney** – The founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney was a central figure in the growth of Catholicism in America, and he remains a model today. His

example of charity, evangelization and empowerment of the laity continues to bear fruit and guide Knights of Columbus around the world. Since its founding in 1882, the Knights of Columbus has grown into the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization with 2 million members. It all began in the heart of a saintly parish priest, who gave his life for the welfare of his flock.

Links to the Diocesan Pillars:

- Charity
- Evangelization
- Evangelize by way of example.
- Invite the greater SJA Community to participate in service ministries.
- By example and outreach, we invite those outside of the SJA community to participate in outreach and join our community.
- Discipleship
- Each program is to have an educational dimension.

Critical Success Factors:

- Prioritization – Focus on impact. All SJA communities (Church, School, RE) are focused on the same goals.
- Commitment to a cornerstone ministry per community circle, i.e., SJA, Diocese of Joliet, the Church in the United States, and the Universal Church. Ensure the whole SJA community is invested and focused.
- Integrate - each cornerstone ministry and most service ministries to be embraced and integrated into the various parish programs, and school and RE curriculum.
- Make it easy for all generations to get involved. Communication is integral to this factor.
- Acknowledge the importance of financial support, since this is sometimes the only way in which some parishioners can participate. We should determine where each service program falls within the community circles and create priorities of giving for each of the programs.

Goals:

- Identify the Cornerstone Ministry for each community circle.
- Update and maintain the list of ministries the SJA community serves. Ensure we communicate the service opportunities to the greater SJA community to increase involvement.
- Commit to a “sister parish” in the city.
- Commit to a “sister parish” in another part of the United States or internationally.
- Maintain the goals and metrics for each active ministry.
- Maintain the website, communication plan (bulletins, inserts, pulpit announcements, mobile), and social marketing programs for all ministries.

- Maintain educational dimension for Outreach (Service & Social) overall and for certain ministries. This content will be integrated into the websites as well as curriculum in school and RE.

Outreach:

We have four community circles of Outreach: St. Joan of Arc Parish, Diocese of Joliet, the Church in the United States, and the Universal Church. These circles have different characteristics and our manner of outreach will be different for each. Please note, the list of ministries outlined below is by no means exhaustive. A full list of our outreach ministries is maintained and available at the parish office, on the website and posted at the resource center in the Narthex.

- **St. Joan of Arc Community:** Outreach at this level is manifested through the Pastor, Sacramental Minister, Outreach Ministries Coordinator, Parish Nurse, and parish volunteers. Prayers for the sick, hospital visits, visits to the homebound, bereavement ministry, and health fairs are but a few ways we reach out to the SJA community. The Parish Nurse and Outreach Ministries Coordinator also act as resources to our community: connect parishioners and community members with assistance (health, financial, veteran’s benefits, durable medical equipment, donations of medical supplies); participate in St. Vincent DePaul Society (SVDP) visits as needed. Join or participate in the charitable acts and prolife activities of the SJA Knights of Columbus at both the parish and diocesan levels.
- **Diocese of Joliet:** Currently, we serve this community in many ways. Pads DuPage, Daybreak of Lisle, Mobile Food Pantry Earth Matters Environmental Ministry, Harvest Sunday, Bucket Bonanza, Magi Tree, Walking with Moms in Need are some of the countless ways in which we currently impact the greater community. In the past, we also have provided labor to some of the poorest areas of the Diocese of Joliet.
- **Church in the United States:** Outreach at this level is through PORT Ministries in Chicago (providing meals during the summer to children/families in the Back-of-the Yards neighborhood in Chicago). In addition, we have collected clothing for Our Lady of the Angels Franciscan Community in the Humboldt Park neighborhood in Chicago. We look to work with the other Diocesan parishes in the future for outreach opportunities in other parts of the country such as creating a “sister parish” relationship with a parish in Chicago, or supporting service projects with parishes in Appalachia or within a Tribal nation.
- **Universal Church:** We need to define our cornerstone ministry at this level. Currently, our only outreach is through various second collections to support the Church throughout the world. We will explore establishing a relationship with a “sister parish” overseas.

Social:

Saint Joan of Arc has several types of Social Ministries:

- Ministry Groups such as Golden Agers, SJA Moms etc.

- Events such as the Parish Picnic, Octoberfest, Epiphany Dinner, Coffee & Donuts in the Link, Corpus Christi procession and Luncheon, Knights of Columbus Fish Frys, etc.

Hospitality:

Hospitality is much more than having than greeters at Sunday Mass – it is about forming a welcoming community. “Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, “I came as a guest, and you received Me” (Matt. 25:35).

Affiliated Service and Outreach:

Entities sponsored by Saint Joan of Arc that serve our communities at many levels:

- **St. Vincent DePaul Society:** SVDP assists both parishioners and non-parishioners with basic needs, financial support, and connects those in need with other resources to further assist them.
- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights are a distinct group. To the fullest extent possible, we should strive to leverage the Knights’ service with the rest of the parish ministries so that all ministries may achieve their goals.
- **Boy Scouts of America (Scouting America as of February 8, 2025):** Saint Joan of Arc has supported Cub Scout Pack 89 and Troop 99. The Boy Scouts provide several opportunities for youth to give back to the parish with service projects benefitting the church, school, and the parish community (i.e. Eagle Scout projects, fall cleanup for the elderly, PORT Ministries, etc.).
- **Girl Scouts of America:** Saint Joan of Arc supports the Girl Scouts of America in numerous Girl Scout troops. Many troops have provided service opportunities for the scouts to give back to the parish community.
- **Dorothy Day Guild:** SJA recently signed up to be members of the Guild to support the cause for sainthood for Dorothy Day. The Outreach Ministries Coordinator is reviewing the work being provided by the Catholic Worker Houses in the Diocese of Joliet with a goal of offering it as an avenue of ministry for our community.

School

Definition

The mission of St. Joan of Arc School is to provide students with a firm foundation in the Catholic faith and the means to achieve academic excellence.

Goals:

1) Catholic Identity

- Religious instruction will be an integral part of the curriculum.
- Commit to the Catholic Identity of SJA as the primary objective in all planning, development, communication, and activities.
 - Allow for more school programming to be held in the sanctity of the church space.
 - Begin all post-school activities/evenings/events with prayer.
 - Impress the importance of using “St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church and School” in messaging.
- Continue professional development in religion and catechesis for faculty.
 - Regularly scheduled diocesan religious in-services.
- Increase the number of students and parents regularly participating in the Eucharist by 20% by 2027.
 - Baseline metrics provided by survey from Spring 2023.
- Continued Pastor’s involvement in school activities, classroom, and extra-curricular visits, including those which parents attend.

2) Continued Focus on Academic Excellence

- Establish a network of support for the school staff so that teachers and administrators can focus on their designated roles.
- Support school’s efforts in welcoming and embracing new families through emphasis in liturgical, ministerial, and financial participation in the parish.
- Ensure continued competitiveness of SJA students.
- Test preparation for high schools – actively reach out to high schools that SJA places into regarding specific testing criteria.
- Develop succession planning for faculty planning to retire.
- Hire a RE teacher/campus minister.

3) Marketing and Development

- Expand St Joan of Arc awareness in the community through the creation and execution of a multi-tier marketing campaign which is reviewed and modified annually thus increasing our brand awareness by 25% annually - measured by our website traffic
- Create culture of St Joan of Arc ‘sales’ people among the parent population through the creation of a marketing committee of

approximately 4 people dispersed throughout the different areas of the school which support the SJA marketing campaign.

- Ensure that students are provided an opportunity to attend SJA regardless of financial barriers via our financial aid/scholarship opportunities.
- Increase enrollment by 5% a year over 5 years with a target of at least 400 by the end of the time.

4) Parish/School Relations

- The school is a critical component of the parish community. Fostering a robust and vibrant relationship between the school, parish, faculty, students, and parents is a key goal. The success of the school also serves as a marketing mechanism for the school and an evangelical force for the parish at large.
 - When conflicting events are held in the church/school (i.e., practices, rehearsals, special programming, etc.); coordinate with the school to consider alternative ingress/egress measures to allow for all events to take place concurrently.
 - Foster the link between the Parish and School via continued communication between the Parish Pastoral Council and School Board regarding parish and school projects.
 - Encourage school parents to attend church events and fundraisers via Constant Contact/FACTS and encourage parishioners to attend school functions and fundraisers through bulletin and pulpit announcements and by placing more pictures of school events in the Link.
 - Invite the Director of Adult Faith Formation and the Director of Religious Education to speak at various school events throughout the year (Open House, STEM night, Reading night, Christmas program, etc.).
 - Consider more ways to bring together all RE students/families and school families (sacramental preparation retreats, liturgical ministry training, etc.).
 - Keep lines of communication open between church, school, and ministries working together on behalf of SJA and in coordination with the Communications Development Coordinator, Outreach Ministries Coordinator and Director of Music.
 - Work with the Director of Religious Education and the School religion teachers on events for students receiving the Sacraments during the school year.
 - Continue to promote the parish and school throughout the community by supporting and sponsoring Village and Lisle Chamber events, working with the local media to promote St. Joan of Arc, and by continuing to enhance social media positions throughout the community.
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Administration and Facilities

Definition For the glory of God and for the safety of our parishioners, maintain the environment of all the facilities of the parish. Ensure proper staff and resources are in place for healthy operation of the campus.

Goals:

I. Church

A. Goals for 2024 - 2026

1. Sacristy, upgrading
2. Windows – sealed and caulked by the Link (north and south entrances)
3. Tuckpointing – Link windows and north end of church
4. Roof – half new and half old
5. Water fountain – Baptismal font needs updating
6. Security

B. Goals for 2027 – 2029

1. Church sign – updating
2. Doors – north and south entrances
3. Air Conditioning Units and Chiller – updating
4. Lights

II. Parish Center

A. Goals for 2024 - 2026

1. Furnace Units – 1 of 8 units has been replaced, 7 remaining units are 20+ years old.
2. Air Conditioning Units – 8 units are 20+ years old
3. Windows – seal and caulk

B. Goals for 2027 – 2029

1. Tuckpoint building

C. Updating Needed – No Specific Date

1. Chapel
2. Library

III. Rectory

A. Goals for 2024 - 2026

1. Air Conditioning Units – 2 of 3 units have been replaced. One unit remains and needs replacing within 1 – 2 years.

B. Goals for 2027 – 2029

1. Furnace needs replacing

C. Updating Needed – No Specific Date

1. Roof is 15 – 20 years old.

IV. School

A. Goals for 2024 - 2026

1. Hallway fire double doors – 5 sets all need new hardware (6 – 12 months)
2. Electrical updates throughout school and gymnasium (always needed)
3. New Exterior Door # 2

B. Goals for 2024 - 2027

1. Air Conditioning Window Units
2. Heating for all upper and lower elementary rooms. Boilers are 10 – 12 years old. All have radiant heat. Classrooms need updating with blowers, pipes, and thermostats. The Junior High classrooms need new heater blower units.
3. Update front lobby security
4. Roof – new roof for elementary school, office, and door # 7

C. Goals for 2027 - 2029

1. Plumbing updates throughout school. Junior high and grade school bathrooms.
2. Windows upper and lower level elementary, office and Junior High
3. Tuckpointing all areas of school and gymnasium
4. Lighting throughout school. Investigate ComEd Program.
5. Gymnasium floor and updating stage storage
6. Classroom interior doors
7. School playground, rubber tarp and fence