

St. James Pastoral Council Update, May 2015

The St. James Pastoral Council and its teams continue to meet and move forward on the Action Steps of the parish's Pastoral Plan. While some of the work has been organizational (developing operational guidelines, building recruitment and succession plans, and the like), most of the work has been in the form of "first steps toward larger goals".

The Communications team continues to work toward upgrades to our parish website, our on-line presence, and our mass communication capabilities. If you have skills in any of these areas, Steve Mohary and his team would LOVE to hear from you!

The Faith and Evangelization team is revamping the process of welcoming new parishioners into our faith community, hoping to build a more long-term personal connection to help our newest members feel "at home". They have also developed a an attractive little "Welcome to St. James" info sheet; look for it soon!

Fr. Mike and a few Council members just participated in the Diocesan "Marriage Summit", as a first step in building a more visible marriage ministry in our parish, one especially focused on recently married couples and those preparing for marriage. More details coming soon.

The Facilities team has been very busy getting prioritizing and preparing for various repairs and upgrades around the campus. Energy efficiency, building security, and safety issues are key items, as is the about-to-begin relocation of the parish office to the Family Center.

The Faith Formation team continues to explore how to better support and build up the CRASH youth group; it is also in the process of introducing "ministry development" guidelines for all Faith Formation ministers in the parish. The Council has promised to "lead by example" in this area.

The Worship team has been working to enhance the various "hospitality" ministries that surround and support our liturgies: greeters, ushers, post-Mass refreshment hosts and others. If you – especially you and your family! – can occasionally participate in these small but very important ways in which we welcome each other into community, please contact Joan Held.

Remember: "We are the Church", and we have opportunities each and every day to be the welcoming face of our Church to all those we meet in the community.

Christ's Peace be with you!
St. James Pastoral Council