

A Message from our Pastor

It is with great joy that the Parish Pastoral Council Plan of St. Jude and St. Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians is presented on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ in the year of our Lord 2019.

Thank you to all parishioners for your input through the surveys. The councils have listened. Parish goals and values have been identified. These are exciting times filled with challenges and opportunities to witness parish life in our community.

For the past nine years, our parishes have been linked, which simply means that both parishes are distinct entities sharing a pastor. In a more detailed spiritual view, our linkage calls us to do as much as possible together. St. Paul reminds us, "we are one Body." Our Baptism makes us one community of faith, not just a linkage of entities.

My hope is this pastoral plan becomes a living document changing us from separate communities into one. A wise old professor taught me, "a parish is not really a parish until it reaches beyond itself." May we be open to do the work, to enjoy each other's presence, and to become more than a linkage ~ to become a parish truly living out of Word, Worship, Community and Service.

God Bless,

Fr. Joe

Pastoral Plan



St. Jude Parish ~ Mountain Top

St. Mary's Church

Our Lady Help of Christians ~ Dorrance

St. Jude Pastoral Council Goals

Word ~ We listened to you and see that you value:

- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Inspirational homilies
- Ministry opportunities that assist in helping you in preparing to live the Gospel

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Provide ongoing & increase opportunities for life-long faith formation
- Maintain/support current, and develop new, parish events, activities and groups

Worship ~ We listened to you and see that you value:

- The new church as a sacred and holy place of worship
- A strong network of devotional opportunities

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Inspire participation at Mass and at devotional opportunities
- Raise awareness of, and introduce new devotional services
- Welcome all worshipers and value their unique gifts

Community ~ We listened to you and see that you value:

- A church staff and parishioners that are attentive to people's needs
- A church community that welcomes all people, regardless of their family status or time in the parish

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Renew our attitudes of welcome, inclusion, and respect in current and additional opportunities to socialize as a faith community
- Continue to educate parishioners in their role of establishing a respectful and reverent assembly
- Reinvalidate the Welcoming Committee for new parishioners

Service ~ We listened to you and see that you value:

- Service as the way of Christian Living
- Our parish as a good witness to the Mountain Top community
- A variety of service opportunities for all generations

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Act as a living witness of care, compassion and service to the Mountain Top community and beyond
- Educate parishioners about our service and outreach opportunities
- Identify ways to better meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of our parish community and beyond

St. Mary Pastoral Council Goals

Word ~ We listened to you and see that you value:

- The strong and active youth ministries
- The dedication of the older parishioners

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Continue current programs and expand for all ages
- Provide lifelong faith formation opportunities
- Balance programming between our linked parishes

Worship ~ We listened and see that you value:

- Opportunities for prayer and reflection
- Feeling the intimacy with God within the church walls
- Available liturgical ministries
- A strong music program

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Increasing participation across ages and providing training
- Developing more opportunities for various spiritual devotions for all ages

Community ~ We listened and see that you value:

- Our small, close-knit, "homey" parish
- Sharing faith and family traditions
- Social involvement

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Increase participation beyond the "regulars" to identify the gifts that each parishioner brings to our parish
- Having more family, multi-generational events
- Strengthen the means and modes of communication
- Determine reasonable expectations in linked parish relationship
- Acknowledge the accomplishments of our youth and their families

Service ~ We listened to you and see that you value:

- Participating in service outreach
- Involving the youth to become accustomed to service

Envisioning our future, we are committed to the following goals:

- Assess services, both physical and spiritual, needed in the greater community
- Partner with nearby churches/programs to serve the community
- Communicate more about outreach opportunities