



St. John the Baptist

Roman Catholic Church

1488 North Country Road, Wading River, NY



St. John the Baptist Parish Pastoral Plan and Annual Report

Six Main Goals: June 2017 - June 2022

THIRD YEAR UPDATE: OCTOBER 2, 2019

GOAL ONE: Establish youth ministry in which our young people are an active part of our community, prayer and service.

Accomplishments for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Youth Group completed its first full year of ministry.
2. Core Team meets regularly and plans the weekly activities and themes.
3. Youth night moved from Thursday to Monday after consultation with the teens and parents.

Goals for 2019-2020 (Year III of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Continue to work with Confirmation candidates (7th and 8th grade) through invitations to youth nights, retreats, etc.
2. Confirmation will move to the fall of 9th grade (Fall of 2021) so that there is a smoother transition from faith formation into the youth group (less of a “graduation”).
3. Continue to coordinate the service activities of young people with parish ministries, especially Outreach.

Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Hire the Youth Minister.
2. Educate the parish about youth ministry throughout the year, and follow the “Life Teen” six-month process to launch youth ministry.
3. Pastoral Council, parish and staff support the steps needed to begin youth ministry.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Youth Minister hired in September, 2018
2. Six-month preparation time initiated (LifeTeen) during which the parish was educated, invited to pray for the success of Youth Ministry, and the Core Team was formed and prepared. Pastoral Council was regularly updated about the progress of the six-month plan.
3. “Kick-Off Night” was April 22, 2018. 44 young people participated. Youth Ministry now meets weekly, including the summer months.

Goals for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Strengthen the focus on the Eucharist, including Adoration and Mass attendance.
2. Encourage Christian Service as part of “being a teen at St. John the Baptist parish.”
3. Integrate teens into Outreach service, and connect with Confirmation candidates.
4. Deepen leadership formation through Core Team prayer and teen participation in outside programs.

GOAL TWO: Strengthen the Sunday Eucharist as the heart of our parish community, ensuring worship that is joyful and welcoming.

Accomplishments for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. New mass settings introduced in the fall of 2018 and used throughout the year so that the community is comfortable with them.
2. Tabernacle moved into the center of the sanctuary.
3. Baptismal area adjacent to the sanctuary to emphasize the connection of baptism and the Eucharist.
4. The crucifix from the old church was restored and moved from the parish hall into the gathering area of the main church.
5. Hospitality Ministry re-introduced after the 9:15 and 11:15 Masses on a monthly basis.
6. Grade level Masses throughout the year encourage more participation of young families.

Goals for 2019-2020 (Year III of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Continue to work on the renewal of the church interior, especially the sanctuary area.
2. Continue to use the weekly bulletin for the “Understanding the Mass” series.
3. Begin to finalize the renewal and prayer elements for the celebration of the parish 100th anniversary.

Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. The new Gather Hymnals will be ordered and be the one worship aid for the Eucharist.
2. As Youth Ministry begins to get underway, an active search will be held to have more consistent accompaniment at the 5:00 mass on Saturday.
3. Begin to discern if there is a weekend mass that can be designated for more contemporary music and attract youth and younger families.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Gather Hymnals purchased and memorialized (500) and used as the one worship aid, the weekend after Thanksgiving, 2018.
2. Sound System upgraded to meet current digital standards, and the hearing assistance system replaced.
3. Volunteers stepped forward to provide the music for the 5:00 mass. Guitar, piano and organ are used.

Goals for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Encourage education about the Mass through a year-long series in the parish bulletin.
2. Introduce new “Mass settings” to broaden the parish repertoire of worship music.
3. Continue to be welcoming to young families and strengthen the Family Mass.

GOAL THREE: Encourage active participation of everyone in our community, using time and talent in current ministries and new ministries.

Accomplishments for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. “Guide to Parish Ministries” published in October, 2018, for the first time. It was designed to be a “snapshot” of more than 30 ministries and included photos of parishioners who share their time and talent.
2. Second year that “Celebration of Ministries” was held and close to 30 new volunteers offered to help the parish.

Goals for 2019-2020 (Year III of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Continue to develop a parish Senior Group; begin with monthly meetings and find ways to support our seniors through social events, education, prayer, and activities.
2. Update the Ministries Guide to include the new ministries that began in the past year (Special Needs Formation, Hospitality, Senior Group).

Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Plan a “Celebration of Ministries” for the fall and begin to raise awareness of the variety of ministries and ways to share time and talent.
2. Begin to assemble a “Ministries Directory”.
3. Use the bulletin and website to keep parishioners informed of the opportunities to share time and talent.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Celebration of Ministries held the second Sunday of October. Three focus areas contained all parish ministries: Helping the Needy, Liturgy and Prayer, Formation and Youth. More than 30 parishioners expressed interest in sharing time and talent.
2. Ministries Directory project began in the winter. A Council subcommittee was formed, and Ministries Heads met with the Council on March 25th to review drafts of descriptions. Photos are being submitted.
3. As photos are received, the bulletin has a weekly “Ministry Spotlight” that invites parishioners to consider various forms of service in the parish.

Goals for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Publish the Guide to Parish Ministries in conjunction with the Fall Stewardship Renewal.
2. Form a Stewardship Committee to coordinate the active involvement of more parishioners.
3. Begin preparing for the parish 100th Anniversary, 2022.

GOAL FOUR: Develop Faith Formation as a life-long process for children, young families, and adults.

Accomplishments for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. **Special Needs Formation began in January, 2019, to assist young people with a variety of needs and to support their parents.**
2. **Baptism Celebration Ministry was reworked. The Baptism Team welcomes families and visitors and assist the priest and deacons throughout the baptism ritual.**
3. **Grade level Masses helped to focus on young people in their different levels of faith formation and assist them to feel more part of the Eucharist on Sundays.**
4. **Safe Environment education was introduced (“Safety First”) to the parents of the 1st and 2nd graders.**

Goals for 2019-2020 (Year III of the Five-Year Plan)

1. **Continue to introduce Safe Environment into all grade levels.**
2. **Strengthen the marriage preparation program through a review of the current program in light of diocesan elements.**
3. **Begin the “FOCCUS” interview for engaged couples.**
4. **Introduce the current 7th graders into the new timeline for the celebration of Confirmation.**

Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Encourage families to participate in the Sunday Eucharist, especially through the registration process and asking parents to reflect on which Mass is best for their schedule.
2. Include more young people/grades at the Sunday mass to strengthen their feeling of belonging to the parish family.
3. Ensure that sacramental preparation is done through the classroom setting as directed by the Diocese of Rockville Centre.
4. Strengthen the connection between the Preschool and parish masses, events and programs.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Preschool Blessing of the Children and Parents was initiated in the winter at a service held in the church.
2. Religious Education families were asked at registration time to choose the weekend mass which is best for their families and to do their best to be faithful.
3. Sacramental Preparation for Eucharist and Confirmation has moved to the Parish Center. Home schooling remains an option for the other grades.
4. Confirmation Mass was adjusted to accommodate one liturgy, and five hundred tickets were distributed.
5. “Back to Basics” offered on a monthly basis for adult formation, on a variety of topics.

Goals for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Encourage more regular Mass attendance for parish families, especially those preparing to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

2. Initiate special needs faith formation, using volunteers who have training and expertise.
3. Implement the diocesan program that strengthens the awareness of children and parents concerning boundaries and safety.

GOAL FIVE: Strengthen our services to the needy in our community and diocese, especially through outreach.

Accomplishments for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Committee began work on developing an outreach ministry to the homebound, “Friendly Visitors.”
2. Recycling program received new volunteers and is able to continue.

Goal for 2019-2020 (Year III of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Finalize the details of the “Friendly Visitors” ministry.
2. Improve storage shelving in the food pantry.

Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Continue to assist our parishioners at the Wading River Motel, and work with the staff to determine other ways to be of help.
2. Begin to work with Youth Ministry and coordinate ways for young people to be of service to the needy through the Outreach ministries and events.
3. Continue to find ways to strengthen the St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser.
4. Review the Gathering Inn and ensure that proper procedures are being followed.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Wading River Motel social services was contacted to strengthen communication for client needs.
2. Gathering Inn was evaluated during the year.

Goals for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Strengthen the Recycling Ministry through a broader base of volunteers.
2. Work with Youth Ministry to help integrate Confirmation candidates and teens into Christian Service.
3. Look into forming a “friendly visitor” ministry.

GOAL SIX: Develop our stewardship of parish resources, especially finances, to enable long-range planning for ministries and facilities.

Accomplishments for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Safe Environment for our children strengthened: separate bathroom installed on the 2nd floor of the parish center, educational component introduced into the preschool orientation, full review of all volunteer files to ensure compliance with diocesan requirements.

2. Church signage replaced with a new design to help facilitate navigation of parking lots and parish buildings, especially for visitors.
3. Facilities Maintenance plan finalized. Steps taken in the past year: parking lots resealed and re-lined, broken air conditioner unit under replacement, church doors in process of renewal.
4. Stewardship yielding positive results so that we can meet our fiscal responsibilities (i.e., pay all our bills), and continue to keep up with plant maintenance.
5. Conversion from oil to natural gas investigated. The Finance Committee did not recommend the conversion at this time because of little “return” and developments in the natural gas market.

Goals for 2019-2020 (Year III of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Investigate ways to involve parishioners in supporting the renewal of the church interior project as we prepare for our 100th anniversary.
2. Continue to encourage direct giving (Faith Direct).

Goals for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Use the month of October to focus on Stewardship Renewal (Time, Talent and Treasure).
2. Continue to monitor the budget to ensure proper use of parish resources.
3. Begin to formulate a plan to address the parish debt.
4. Use the 2008 Facilities Report from the Diocese of Rockville Centre and determine the needs of the parish buildings.

Accomplishments for 2017-2018 (Year I of the Five-Year Plan)

1. October 2017 was used for Stewardship Renewal and found to be a good “fit” for the parish schedule.
2. Budget carefully monitored through the Finance Committee and spending was matched by revenues.
3. Parish Debt is being examined by the Diocese. A response is pending.
4. Facilities Subcommittee formed by the Finance Committee. A preliminary report was submitted to the Diocese and in May a diocesan representative walked through the facilities with the Subcommittee. A report is pending.

Goals for 2018-2019 (Year II of the Five-Year Plan)

1. Begin addressing the Facilities maintenance and preventive maintenance based on the work of the Finance Committee and Diocese.
2. Continue to monitor the budget carefully, ensuing another year of balanced budget.
3. Continue to work with the diocese concerning the substantial parish debt.