

A Message from our Pastor

As the recently appointed pastor of Christ the King I want to offer a few words of thanks. First to our beloved Pastor Emeritus of Beloved Memory – Fr Jim Fitzmaurice. He has positioned our parish to be able to address this new model of church wherein the people in the pews must have a greater voice and greater responsibility for the parish than ever before. I am also grateful to the Pastoral Council, Trustees, Financial Council and countless staff and volunteers who have answered the call. Our Strategic Plan is a wonderful example of how varied voices can struggle together for the good of the parish.

The need for a strong Pastoral Council has never been greater. Each parish in the diocese comes with particular gifts that comprise the whole of the unified church. We would be bereft without each part. It is the local parish voice that ensures that this parish will continue to be the particular gift that it is rather than simply allowing the homogenization of all the parishes in our network.

I am blessed to be joining a vibrant community grounded in the tradition of faith and looking into the signs of the times by the light of that faith to make Jesus Christ present in our particular way.

With Gratitude to All,

Fr. Rick

2020 - 2025 Christ the King Strategic Plan

The primary role of the Christ the King Pastoral Council is to empower the parish community to live out their baptismal call by engaging our parishioners in the life and mission of our Parish and the needs of our community. We are charged with the responsibility of holding our Parish in trust with its members and the needs of our community, insuring that parish ministries and activities are in accordance with the Parish vision and its mission statement.

The council meets monthly to discuss pastoral matters, at which time, we consider them thoroughly, and propose practical solutions and recommendations to the Pastor and Staff. In order to achieve this, the Council found a need to create a strategic plan for the Parish. Over the course of three years, the Pastoral Council examined the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of Christ the King. From information extracted from the SWOT analysis, the Council developed belief statements, parameters and objectives. Five overall goals, with objectives, were established - Communication, Community Building, Faith Enrichment, Discipleship/Ministry and Peace/Social Justice.

Finally, some action plans were created for each area of need. In some instances, some of the action plans have been implemented, and in some cases, we request your input to help us build up our Parish. The main purpose of the attached document is to present this strategic plan to the Parish in order to empower our parishioners to continue the development of action plans.

2020-2025 Christ the King Strategic Plan

We identified many strengths at our Parish, but perhaps the most prevalent was that Christ the King is an open, welcoming and inclusive parish “family” led by a warm, charismatic Pastor. Our culturally diverse parishioners are actively involved in all aspects of parish life, and they work well with the committed leadership team at Christ the King on many service programs within and outside of our parish. Along with the physical beauty of the church, we feel that our liturgical and music ministries do a wonderful job meeting the sacramental and spiritual needs of the parishioners, especially during the Triduum, Easter and Christmas liturgies. The strength of our Parish’s Faith Formation programs; i.e. pre-K through 11th grade, Youth Ministry, RCIA as well as Adult Faith Enrichment; have been instrumental in strengthening the faith of the parish. Finally, the success of many of our larger social events, the award winning Early Childhood Education Center and the strong CYO basketball program round out many of the strengths that we have identified.

As strong as we feel our Parish is, we know that we have weaknesses and there are threats to our church. The one weakness that is probably present in every parish nation-wide is the fact that we tend to lose our young people once they are confirmed, and that we fall short in getting teens involved in parish life. With that being said, there are young people actively looking to belong to a parish; there is a great need for services throughout Albany County which presents us with a great opportunity to grow our Parish. If we are to grow, this strategic plan will address one of the other weaknesses which was identified, mainly, that we have a limited number

2020-2025 Christ the King Strategic Plan

of catechists, Eucharistic Ministers and other key people to sustain a quality, sacramental experience at Christ the King. Some of the threats that we may not be able to control internally, but need to be aware of when we search for ways to enhance life within our parish is that people are upset with the Catholic Church in the way they have handled past scandals. In addition, there is an over-all disdain by people outside the catholic faith for all things “Catholic,” and there is no denying there is more secularization and polarization of the world. Although these issues are real, they did not impede us from developing a Strategic Plan that we feel will enhance Christ the King.

In conclusion, this plan is the result of a strong collective effort by committed parishioners representing Christ the King Parish. It is the Pastoral Council’s hope that this plan will be embraced and implemented by all to make this great parish of ours even greater!

The Pastoral Council



Parish Mission Statement

Christ the King Parish is called together by God as a sharing community, to radiate, celebrate and proclaim Jesus Christ through prayer, Word, worship and service as we seek to build up this one body, adapting to the diverse needs of the people in whose midst we live and witness.

**Christ the King
Pastoral Council
Strategic Plan
2020 – 2025**

Faith Enrichment

As one's faith and love for Christ grows, so too does our Parish.

Develop and enhance faith sharing opportunities for the parishioners of Christ the King.

Facilitate parish-wide prayer events

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Coffee & Conversation
- ✓ Blue Christmas Mass for those who find Christmas difficult
- ✓ Developed a plan to keep the parish going during COVID.

Future Projects

- ☐ To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.

Explore new parish-wide faith enrichment

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Parish Mission
- ✓ Formed
- ✓ Vacation Bible School
- ✓ Viewing "The Chosen" as a Parish Family.

Future Projects

- ☐ To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.

Promote engagement in Diocesan events

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Diocesan Day of Prayer and Celebration
- ✓ Oct 20-22 2023 Eucharistic Congress
- ✓ Walking with Mom's Ministry

Future Projects

- ☐ To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.

How we support this goal:

- Current parish website
- Morning & Evening Prayer during Advent & Lent
- Tues Eucharistic Adoration
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- March for Life
- Small Faith Sharing Groups (Advent & Lent focused)
- Wed Rosary Weekly in Church
- Rosary during October
- Vacation Bible School
- Thurs Adult Faith Formation
- Weekly emails

Community Building

A spirited community of believers who strive to empower, engage and encourage everyone in our midst.

Foster Fellowship at the Parish of Christ the King:

Bring the Community of Christ the King together on at least a quarterly basis for a social activity.

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Parish Picnic
- ✓ Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Dinner
- ✓ Hospitality After Sunday Masses
- ✓ Young Adult Fellowship
- ✓ New Parishioner Welcome Dinner
- ✓ International Parishioner Experience

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.
- Establish an Ad-hoc Events Committee.

How we support this goal:

- Signed Mass for hearing impaired
- Amplifiers for the hearing impaired
- Hospitality After Mass
- Ornaments celebrating those who received sacraments at CTK during the year
- Welcome new parishioners via bulletin and calls/emails.
- Garden Ministry



Discipleship & Ministry

Ministry is the life blood of a vibrant Parish Community

Enhance and empower full, conscious and active participation within the Parish of Christ the King.

- Increase Parishioner awareness and participation in ministries.

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Ministries highlighted on TV, Bulletin
- ✓ CTK Serves – Promote ministries and gather info from parishioners
- ✓ Ministry Booklet with Contacts
- ✓ Ministry Fair
- ✓ Ministry Sign-up Weekend

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry & Parishioner involvement.

- Communicate the Strategic Plan and its goals to the Parishioners.

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Ministries highlighted on TV, Bulletin, Web-site

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.

- Work to retain current members of ministries

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Ministry appreciation dinners

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.

- Develop collaboration with the ministries to foster ministry within our community.

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.
- Discussion of Catholic Culture
- Support for Family Promise at St. Matthew's Parish

How we support this goal:

- Invite Parishioners to participate in Ministries
- Highlight individual Ministries
- Gather information from Parishioners
- Pastoral Council members are liaisons with Parish Ministries
- Guilderland Food Pantry
- The Caring Closet (personal hygiene items)
- Collection for Haiti
- KofC Collection of Winter Coats
- October Service Week



Communication

Communication is successful when both our Parish and our Parishioners understand the same information.

Develop and implement a communication plan for the Parish:

- Enhance ways to communicate the many activities and faith building opportunities at Christ the King.

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Create standard operating procedures for Communications Director & identify the Director (Sarah Guerra)
- ✓ Create a Parish “Business Card”
- ✓ Broadcast the Sunday mass and some funeral masses.

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.

- Improve the communication of the ministries to the parishioners.

Completed & Current Projects

- ✓ Assign Ministry Liaisons from Pastoral Council
- ✓ Develop a standardized communication form
- ✓ Host a Ministry Heads/Leaders Evening of Reflection

Future Projects

- To be developed through Ministry and Parishioner involvement.
- Integrate findings of the Synod Committed into the actions of the Parish.

How we do this:

- Parish Website
- Weekly emails
- Bulletin
- Social Media
- Announcements
- TV in Gathering Space
- Pastoral Council Liaisons with Ministry Leaders



Peace & Social Justice

Peace and Justice for all humankind is the core of Christianity,
and should be a main focus within our Parish

Implement parish wide awareness and participation in social justice objectives

- Raise an understanding of the seven principles of Catholic Social Justice

Future Projects

- Introduce the seven principles by making resources available – Publications, Webinars, Videos, links through Social Media and the TV in the Gathering Space.
- Provide in-service training for ministry leaders on what can be done to further projects in the Parish.

- Identify current social justice projects within the Parish

Future Projects

- Identify a Parish Social Justice Coordinator / Team
- Gather information from ministries about what they are currently doing with regards to Social Justice
- Publish a Parish Social Justice Activities Report
- Share information from the Diocese about potential social justice opportunities.



Ministries which support this goal:

- Food Pantry Support
- Residents Encounter
- Christ Prison Ministry
- Parish Service Week
- Advent Giving Tree
- Boxes of Joy
- Provide meeting space for:
 - AA
 - Zumba
 - Daystar Faith Sharing
 - Ignatian Volunteer Group
 - Grief & Loss Support Group
 - Community Caregivers
 - Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
 - Catholic Charities Caregiver Support

The Pastoral Council welcomes your thoughts and ideas on how we can serve you better. Please contact any of us:

The Pastoral Council



Fr. Rick Lesser



Deacon Tony Cortese



Margaret Carle



Vanessa Zuleta Goldberg



Marie Hartigan



Lina Abu Judom



Patti Kasuba



Amber Marino



Bob Murphy



Dave O'Hehir



Rick Ronda



Dr. John Potenciano



Colleen O'Hehir

Parish Trustees



Connor Kasuba

Parish Staff



Sarah Guerra



Linda Carducci



Melinda Cestaro



LouAnn Cleary



Lisanne Jensen

It is the ultimate goal of the Council to empower each parishioner to give us ideas for future projects.

Your Name: _____

Your Idea: _____

Are you willing to Lead this Effort?

Yes

Not at this time



Let your Christ light shine.