

August 5, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

As you are hopefully aware, Saint John Paul II Parish is in the midst of a strategic planning process. The early years of Saint John Paul II Parish were focused on growing a parish community and building a church to meet the spiritual needs of Catholics in Cedar Springs and the surrounding area. As we were blessed with rapid growth, we focused on a capital campaign to build a larger worshiping space for our growing parish family. Now we are shifting our attention to the future through this strategic planning effort.

Many of you have participated in focus groups, interviews, and, most recently, provided your perspective and thoughts through the parish survey. We had a strong response rate for the survey and are grateful for everyone's input and investment in helping improve our parish. Attached to this article you will find pie charts showing the quantitative results of the survey. We welcome you to review the responses and be informed of the results.

The Strategic Planning team has reviewed all of the data from this discovery phase and synthesized three overarching themes to focus our parish's plan around. Those three themes are **Communication**, **Formation**, and **Engagement**. We hosted two open invite review sessions and received positive feedback that these themes are a good fit for the parish. These themes will be elaborated on with practical steps addressing input items from the discovery phase as the plan begins to come together over the next month. We are very excited to have reached this step in the process and grateful for the discussion that has started as we all aim to make our parish better.

You can expect to hear from the Planning team in the coming weeks about opportunities to be involved and other updates regarding the planning process. Feel free to reach out to any member of the Strategic Planning Team if you have any questions or thoughts to share. There is also a dedicated page on the parish website where you can always find the latest information about the Strategic Planning process, past communications, and what's next.

In service,

Fr. Lam and the Strategic Planning Team

Kristen Avila, Amy Darling, Jonah Drake, Rosie Ells, Tena Hoxsie, Kim Hunter, Joe Jensen, Annette Kogut, Jake Loew, Katie Mendenhall, Rod Underhill, Kalli Zielbauer, Aaron Zomberg