

RESULTS OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

Why St. John Exists (WHY):

St. John the Baptist Church provides an authentic experience of transformational love, healing, peace, and the fullness of truth and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement of St. John (WHAT):

The mission of St. John the Baptist Church is to reach out and welcome all people to live an Orthodox Christian life, grow spiritually, and become disciples of Jesus Christ through serving others.

Vision of St. John (HOW):

Within the next five years, we will...

- † Achieve consensus and begin to implement a plan for our parish's future (including parish home, size, mission churches, and school, and the means to achieve these goals)
- † Develop a more cohesive, united community
- † Pursue charitable acts
- † Foster engagement in spiritual life and education
- † Implement comprehensive stewardship
- † Evangelize the broader community

Core Values of St. John:

- † Cohesive, loving, and hospitable community
- † Education and spiritual growth
- † Maintaining/living the Orthodox Faith and Tradition
- † Sacramental and liturgical life
- † Living a prayerful and Orthodox life
- † Community outreach and service to those in need
- † Missions and evangelism
- † Transparent communication

S.W.O.T. Analysis

STRENGTHS (INTERNAL/HELPFUL)

- † Commitment to accessible liturgical and sacramental life
- † Love for God and one another
- † Sense of community
- † Welcoming to all
- † Commitment to spiritual growth and education
- † Quality, caring and accessible clergy
- † Vibrant ministries
- † Demographically diverse parish
- † Family friendly

WEAKNESSES (INTERNAL/HARMFUL)

- † Inadequate stewardship – including time, talents and treasure (annual and capital)
- † Inadequate broad engagement
- † Inadequate facilities
- † Lack of unity (vision, parish size, building size, and ASA)
- † Lack of open communication
- † Insufficient education about the Church and its traditions
- † Unwelcoming – cliquish – a lack of connectedness
- † Distractions in church
- † Inadequate outreach
- † Too much emphasis on Greek cultural identity

OPPORTUNITIES (EXTERNAL/HELPFUL)

- † Evangelism to the larger population and growing numbers of seekers
- † Increasing ethnic population and diversity
- † Serve the great socio-economic need
- † Partner with growing numbers of groups
- † New and expanding technologies
- † Increasing Pan-Orthodox interactions

THREATS (EXTERNAL/HARMFUL)

- † Moral decay (secularization, materialism, individualism)
- † Active antagonism and attempted brainwashing in education, media and politics that is antithetical to Orthodox Christian beliefs
- † Societal redefining of Christian terms and beliefs
- † Anti-Christian laws
- † Rising cost of property and construction and church accessibility
- † Perceived Greek ethnic exclusivity of the church