



Church of Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada

380 Little Canada Road
Little Canada, MN 55117

(651) 484-2708 • FAX (651) 484-0567 • www.stjohnsoflc.org

April 30, 2018

Name

Street

City, state zip

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter everyone! He is truly Risen! Spring is a time of renewal and new beginnings. In that vein, last October, I initiated a Pastoral Planning Process. We conducted a parish-wide survey, about which I gave an initial update in December. Over the past few months, the Pastoral Planning Committee has been working hard, looking at survey responses, considering all the data and identifying next steps. I want to give an update to the challenges we are facing, the goals identified, and the initiatives we will undertake moving forward.

Our current situation reveals some profound challenges. Mass attendance has been down 22% over the last 4 years. Pre-K through 8th grade enrollment has declined 117 students over the past 10 years. Financially, Mass contributions are down 10 % over the same period. The past several years the parish has been unable to invest in our school fully and the deficits have been covered by using school reserves. We cannot continue to operate in this way because these reserves will be depleted in a few years. In light of this, the Pastoral Planning Committee in conjunction with the Finance Council has asked for a balanced budget for the church/school to be developed. We are diligently working on this, although, it must be understood that it will likely take several years to achieve a balanced budget. In the meantime, we are working hard to increase student enrollment and on a positive note, next year's kindergarten class is larger than this year's! In addition, parish contributions are trending slightly better than last year. Thank you for your generosity!

Other identified goals are for us to be a more welcoming parish both here at the church/school and in the community, to work towards greater church/school unity as one parish, and instituting a greater culture of stewardship. Some of the initiatives aimed at achieving these goals include establishing a welcoming committee, updating a unified parish website for both our church/school, developing a more unified faith formation program encompassing both parish school students and youth from the parish at large, and reestablishing a stewardship committee.

As we continue to be transparent about our initiatives, communication surrounding the implementation of these plans will be forthcoming. I will give an update to the parish in August. In the mean time, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me.

We are facing some challenges and will meet them head on. At the same time, we have entered into a season of new beginnings. I invite you to prayerfully discern what additional ways you can help us move forward. The Lord is leading us and will continue to guide us. May He fill us with Easter joy and great anticipation for the works He will accomplish here at Saint John's.

Peace,



Church of Saint John the Evangelist of Little Canada

380 Little Canada Road
Little Canada, MN 55117
(651) 484-2708 • FAX (651) 484-0567 • www.stjohnsoflc.org

Fr. Tom