



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

NEXT STEPS FOR
PRIESTS · **PROPHETS** · **KINGS**

CL

The Roman numerals for “150.”

C = 100

L = 50

This booklet uses CL for every variation of 150 –

150

150th

Sesquicentennial

150th anniversary

Etc.

October 25, 2015
St. Joseph Church

Dear Friends in Christ:

Jesus' very first public words refer to a "Jubilee Year."

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me ... to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4)

What did Jesus mean by a "year acceptable to the Lord?" He was quoting Isaiah 61, which in turn quotes Leviticus 25.

"You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred . . . each of you shall return to your own land . . . This fiftieth year is your year of jubilee . . . It shall be sacred for you . . . each of you shall return to your land."

Today we enter our third "fiftieth year." And as our ancestors returned to their land, the symbol of their covenant with God, we return to the symbol of our covenant, our baptisms. A year of return to our baptisms is surely "a year acceptable to the Lord."

How do we "return to our baptisms?" We return by doing two simple things. First, we remember the promises made at our baptisms. Chief among them is the promise "to remain forever a member of Christ who is priest, prophet and king." Second, we recommit ourselves to fulfilling those remembered promises.

As priests we are people of prayer. As prophets we are people who serve by consoling and challenging others. As kings we are people who build the community. Our jubilee year is thus a year to recommit ourselves to our lives of prayer, service and community building. It is a year to take a next step in each domain.

This booklet, "Next steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings" makes those steps easy. Part I focuses on next steps in prayer, Part II on service and Part III on community building. Each part clarifies two challenges and easy ways to satisfy them.

May the Spirit of the Lord descend mightily upon us. May our CL year be one of inspired next steps. May this year fill us with gratitude to God.

Fr. Hank

PART I: NEXT STEPS FOR PRIESTS

A) THE FIRST CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN PRAYER

Each one of us has been anointed “to remain forever a member of Christ who is priest, prophet and king.” Hence, each of us belongs to “the priesthood of all the baptized.” Membership in that community means we are people of prayer. Each of us wants to speak to God and listen to God. And each of us can.

Every member of St. Joe's prays at Sunday Mass, the “source and summit” of our individual and communal prayer lives.

Outside of Sunday Mass, we pray in very different ways. Some people pray mostly on the move, talking to God and listening as the Spirit moves them. Others lean toward more formalized prayer times. Most mix both modes.

We also pray in a wide array of moods. We sometimes feel a little stuck in prayer, sensing that our words are more ritualistic than relational, wondering if our efforts to listen are more routine than robust. At other times we feel very revved up, “ambitious for the higher gifts,” confident that God wants to grant us an even stronger connection. Most of us move back and forth between moods.

Finally, we come to prayer from varied pasts. Some have been at it for decades. Others are at it again after a long break. Still others are relative novices.

Regardless of our modes of prayer, our moods in prayer, or our history of prayer, several methods of prayer help everyone. Sunday Mass is the first. Scriptural prayer and “The Examen” are two others. Mass, scripture prayer and the Examen form the core of the first CL challenge, the CL prayer challenge.

THE FIRST CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN PRAYER

SPEND CL MINUTES EACH WEEK IN PRAYER AS FOLLOWS:

1) Sunday Mass	60 minutes
2) Mon.-Sat. Scripture Prayer (10 minutes/day)	60 minutes
3) Mon.-Sat. Examen _____ (5 minutes/day)	<u>30 minutes</u>
	CL minutes

The following pages clarify these very user-friendly prayer methods.

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

B) Praying with Scripture

We can read scripture, study it or pray with it. Each approach is good and holy and each is an adventure of its own. What follows are some guidelines for praying with scripture. It is known in some circles as "The Seven-Ps" approach.

1) Prepare

Pick a passage from scripture. Have it marked and ready to go. Doing so prevents the distractions that come from fumbling around. (The next page suggests ways to pick your passages.)

2) Place

Find a spot where you are alone and uninhibited in your response to God's presence, where you can, if you wish, "speak to God and listen to the casual reply."

3) Posture

Situate yourself so that you are relaxed and peaceful, but not so relaxed that you are likely to fall asleep.

4) Presence of God

Remember – God is attentive to you and is loving you. Your very desire to pray is itself a gift from our God who is beholding you.

5) Passage from Scripture

Read the passage very slowly, aloud if you can. Listen peacefully. When possible, "Apply the senses" – imagine how the scene looks, smells, feels, tastes and sounds. The Spirit makes great use of the sensory data.

6) Pause

When you feel attracted to a word, phrase or image, stay with it. That attraction is typically a signal from the Holy Spirit.

7) Proceed

When you start straining to focus, move gently ahead.

C) Scripture Resources

We enjoy three basic ways to select daily scripture readings.

1) The Lectionary

The lectionary is the book of readings we use at Mass. There are different readings for every day of the year. Weekday readings repeat every two years. Sunday readings repeat every three. The daily Mass readings supply terrific material for daily scripture prayer.

There are countless options for scripture in hard copy. Daily missals, available at Christian book stores, make life very easy. Make sure your missal is based on the New American Bible. You can also subscribe to the *Magnificat* or other publications that send pocket-sized monthly missals.

Online options are also plentiful. Nothing beats the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) website: <http://usccb.org/bible/readings/>. The website can send daily readings to your computer or smart phone. *Magnificat*, <http://us.magnificat.net/home/online>, The Catholic Company, yourfriends@catholiccompany.com, and many others also email readings.

2) Prepared Guides

Amazon sells several books that provide one or more scripture passages for each day of the year. The offerings include: *The Catholic One Year Bible* (also available online), *How to Read the Bible Every Day: A Guide for Catholics*, and *My Daily Catholic Bible*. These and similar books are especially good for people who would like to read the entire bible. (You will need to tweak the books' game plans so that you are praying rather than simply reading the passages.)

3) Book-at-a-time

Reading one book of the Bible at a time can also be a useful way to pray over the scriptures. When doing so, it can be very helpful to go very slowly, taking a few days to cover a chapter in any book. Praying through the gospels alone can easily take a year. It can be helpful to peruse a book before committing to praying it through.

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D) The Examen

This priceless prayer focuses on God's love in your life. It takes five minutes and is best made just before bed. Pray it anywhere you can be internally quiet. The goal is to notice where you experienced *true* peace. Choices that lead to *true* peace are of God.

1) Ask for God's Help

Your Creator wants to help you do this. Trust Him. A Jesus prayer can be very helpful. You might try repeating quietly:

Lord Jesus Christ, Living Son of the Living God

Help me to see my day, And where You gave me Your peace.

2) Review your day in earthly terms

Recall the specifics of where you have been and what you have been doing for the last 24 hours. Apply the senses again as you remember – how the coffee smelled, how the highway sounded, how the classroom looked.

3) Review your day in spiritual terms

Review your day again, this time noticing where you felt *true* peace and where you did not. Notice which moments make you grateful and which stirred regret. Notice the gifts given and the gifts received, including your lifelong gifts and those of others. Also notice the missteps.

4) Talk to Jesus

After the review, tell Jesus what made you grateful and what stirred regret. Thank Him for the peaceful moments and ask Him to help you understand the moments you regret and how to avoid repeating them. Apologize to Jesus if appropriate and ask for wisdom to find true peace.

5) Close

After speaking casually with Jesus, it can be very helpful to close with a formulaic prayer (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, *Anima Christi*, etc.)

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

E) THE SECOND CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SPIRITUAL READING

Each of us enters the CL through a different door. A few of us come to the CL a little too weary to take next steps in prayer. Others feel they are hitting their perfect prayer strides and should not change anything. Jesus fully understands both of these situations and is probably not nudging these people to pray more or in new ways.

Those whom God is not nudging to take that next step in prayer (i.e., combine Sunday Mass with weekday scriptural prayer and the Examen) might consider the second CL challenge, the CL reading challenge. Those whom God is nudging toward a next step in prayer might also consider the reading challenge.

THE SECOND CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SPIRITUAL READING

READ CL PAGES OF SPIRITUAL READING EACH MONTH.

Spiritual reading can open our hearts and souls to glorious transformations. As the saints have always known and the psychologists have more recently verified, we become like the things we contemplate. If we contemplate injuries, we become injurious. If we contemplate scandal, we become scandalous. And if we contemplate holiness and peace, we become holy and peaceful. What we read has a big influence on what we contemplate and what we become. The right spiritual reading can lead to inspired contemplations and transformations.

What we call "spiritual reading" includes, among other topics, biographies of canonized and un-canonized saints, the illuminations and insights of holy people, the history of our church and the development of our collective wisdom. The list of topics is vast and includes anything that makes us wonder about God.

In preparation for the CL reading challenge, two great resources have been developed. First, the parish lending library has been renovated, organized, and moved into two bookcases in the gathering space. Each book case contains CL books. All parishioners are encouraged to peruse the offerings, borrow books, and donate books.

Second, an extremely generous volunteer has organized descriptions of CL books (and MOVIES) you can consider for spiritual reading. The compendium is available in the gathering space, on the parish website, and in the parish office. It provides some very surprising recommendations and many classics.

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

PART II: NEXT STEPS FOR PROPHETS

Our baptisms not only make us members of “the priesthood of all the baptized,” they call us to imitate all the prophets, but especially Jesus.

As prophets, we follow the example of the Old Testament prophets who serve God's people by consoling and challenging. Our baptisms call us to imitate the Major Prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel – and the Minor Prophets – Hosea, Amos and the rest. Most of all, our baptisms call us to console and challenge as Jesus did.

Members of St. Joe's already console in marvelous ways, by habitually “speaking to the weary the words that can rouse them,” by helping to mend broken hearts on the playground, in hospitals, at funeral homes, at Starbucks, at homeless shelters, at all manner of workplaces, and dozens of other places. You console the broken hearted through your words and, more importantly, through your actions.

The same is true of your efforts to challenge the misdirected. You do it in many places and many ways. You sometimes speak the challenging word and, far more frequently, you present a challenging example. Your actions and the peace they yield dare the misdirected to make better choices. You are fine prophets.

Each of us is also a prophet positioned to take a next step in our efforts to serve others as an agent of Christ's consolation and challenge. The “150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT PROGRAM” provides one terrific option for taking next steps along the ways of consoling and challenging. The “150 NEXT MINISTERIAL STEPS” program provides another.

B) THE THIRD CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE IN THE 150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT (POL) PROGRAM

Some efforts to console and challenge are best pursued through current ministries. Others are best pursued as new initiatives. The “POL Challenge” fosters the latter.

THE THIRD CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE IN THE 150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT (POL) PROGRAM

COMPLETE ONE POINTS-OF-LIGHT PROJECT

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1) What is the "150 POINTS OF LIGHT PROGRAM (POL)?"

150 POL is a year-long program coinciding with our CL celebration. 150 POL invites every parishioner to serve our Millstone, Hillsborough, Somerset County and New Jersey communities by undertaking a new service project. 150 POL is our parish's gift to the places we call "home."

2) Who can take part?

Every parishioner is encouraged to participate, regardless of age or current level of parish involvement. The service projects can be completed by individuals, families, ministries, neighbors, CCD classes or any other parish-related group. Non-parishioners are welcomed to take part as well.

3) What will the service projects be?

That's up to the individuals/families/groups that commit to completing them. We hope 150 POL will spur conversations around family dinner tables or at ministry meetings. The projects can be big or small and can benefit individuals, groups or places (e.g., local parks or schools).

If your project will benefit an organization, you will want to check to be sure that it is something the recipient organization currently welcomes.

If you are not sure of a worthy service project, don't worry, help is available. This booklet's next section supplies dozens of examples to kick start your imagination. And of course, our Social Ministries Office can help spark great ideas.

All ideas are possible winners. If you have any questions please send an email to 150pointsoflight@stjosephsparish.com

4) How do I/we sign up for a project?

Families, groups and individuals will fill out a short form that describes their planned project. (Copies of that form are supplied on this booklet's last page.) Once received, a sheet summarizing the project will be displayed in the church gathering space. After a few weeks in the gathering space, these sheets will move into the Memorial Hallway where they will remain on display for the entire CL year. We ask that you take a photo of

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the group at the project site which will be attached to the summary sheet upon completion of the project.

It is the responsibility of each group to ensure their project adheres to all laws and is performed in a safe manner.

5) When can the projects begin?

How about today? Some groups have already committed and are getting ready to go. The timing of each project will be determined by the person/group running the project.

6) What are some of the projects that are already planned?

- Lew Family – Collect children's winter coats to benefit Somerset Food Bank.
- Holecomb Dr. Families – Clean up Amsterdam Rd– 3x over the course of the year.
- Irwin Family – Prepare meals for the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program.
- Personal Tutors, LLC (Steve Abuschinow) – Offer 20 hours of free tutoring for needy students at Hillsborough library.
- Laffoon Family – Host inner city child for a summer week, through Fresh Air Fund.
- Nursery Ministry – Host a fun Saturday morning for kids in December (in parish Hall) so their parents can prepare for Christmas.
- Prince CCD Class – Make and deliver 150 sandwiches to Elijah's Promise.
- Carter Family – Prepare meals and work with kids at Agape House (Somerville).
- 2nd Grade CCD Classes – Create greeting cards to be sent to homebound parishioners, patients at St. Peter's Hospital, residents at Bridgeway Care and U.S. servicemen serving overseas.
- Lanahan Family – Wrap Christmas gifts with American Corp. Council gift wrappers.
- Fr. Hank – Host and help Hillsborough clergy's effort to help stem suicides at HHS.
- Seelig Family – Beautify and maintain plant bed in upper Amsterdam Park.
- Maryanne Calandra – Knit blankets for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Many of these projects are already in motion. Others will start soon.

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7) What are some other ideas for POL projects?

Our Elders

- Adopt a "grandfriend."
- Get an elderly neighbor to church.
- Shop for a homebound Senior.
- Teach Seniors how use the internet.
- Shovel snow off a Senior's walk.
- Rake a Senior's leaves.

Our Homeless

- Help take the homeless census.
- Collect and distribute coats.
- Cook for SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program in Somerville).
- Spruce up SHIP's picnic area.
- Serve at Elijah's Promise (New B'wick).

Our Youth

- Tutor kids through Catholic Charities.
- Volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Collect children's books for the needy.

Our People with Special Needs

- Help at Special Olympics (local or state).
- Beautify a group home's yard.
- Volunteer at Somerset ARC.
- Sponsor a child at Camp Jontoni.
- Volunteer or cleanup at Camp Jontoni
- Eat lunch the same day each week with a classmate with special needs.

Our Babies

- Staff the Pregnancy Aid Center's phone.
- Collect baby clothes for single mothers.
- Rock a baby at the S'ville baby center.
- Knit or crochet baby blankets.

Our Neighborhoods

- Plant 150 bulbs in your common area.
- Adopt-a-park
- Adopt a pothole.

Our Military

- Support Wounded Warriors, Operation Shoe Box, Operation Gratitude, Hero Miles, or Operation Kid Comfort.
- Become a military pen pal.

Our Holidays

- Send birthday cards to Avalon residents.
- Sort and deliver Thanksgiving and Christmas food donations.
- Gather Halloween costumes for children living in shelters.

Our Incarcerated

- Send birthday cards and Christmas cards to children of the incarcerated.
- Help prepare those in jail or recently released for GED.
- Become a pen pal to a person in jail.

Our Urban Poor

- Help adults overcome illiteracy.
- Volunteer for Catholic Heart Work Camp, Catholic Volunteer Network, ServiceWorX, Habitat for Humanity.
- Ring the bell for Salvation Army.
- Paint over graffiti.
- Get used sports equipment and books from your street to poor city kids.

Our Disasters

- Mobilize your neighborhood's giving when a natural disaster strikes our country or elsewhere.
- Prevent local disasters by trimming branches away from traffic signs.

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

C) THE FOURTH CL CHALLENGE:

TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE BY HELPING AN EXISTING MINISTRY

Our parish's ministry directory describes an inspired collection of ministries. Our efforts to serve others – within the parish and beyond our parish – are terrifically varied. Those efforts are also vibrant.

And like all robust parish ministries, ours are well aware of the help they need to carry on Jesus' work even more effectively. Their CL requests for help, listed below, form the heart of the fourth CL challenge.

THE FOURTH CL CHALLENGE:
TAKE A NEXT STEP IN SERVICE BY HELPING AN EXISTING MINISTRY
HELP SATISFY ONE MINISTRY'S REQUEST FOR HELP

Our Existing Priestly Ministries *(Ministries that help people pray)*

The Lazarus Ministry (Funeral Ministry)

- 1) Print programs for each funeral.
- 2) Send sympathy cards to families.
- 3) Call families after funerals to follow up.
- 4) Recruit more adult servers for funerals.
- 5) Create ministry to staff wakes.
- 6) Provide post-funeral luncheons.

Sacristans

- 7) Recruit one new sacristan for each Sunday Mass and two for Saturday.
- 8) Recruit at least one sacristan under age 30 for each Mass.
- 9) Provide ministry enrichment and training for current and new sacristans.
- 10) Improve organization of both sacristies.

Lectors for Sunday Mass

- 11) Recruit 3 new lectors for each Mass.

- 12) Offer spiritual enrichment for lectors.
- 13) Create new ways for parishioners to have special intentions read.

Altar, Sanctuary and Plant Care

- 14) Recruit at least five new members to care for indoor and outdoor plants.
- 15) Help volunteers learn about church norms for decorating sanctuaries.
- 16) Replace aging banners.
- 17) Provide prayer books for special needs.

Eucharistic Ministers: Carrier Clinic

- 18) Recruit eight new members to bring the Eucharist to Carrier Clinic.
- 19) Provide semi-annual get-togethers for Carrier EMs to process and socialize.
- 20) Have a St. Joe's deacon/spiritual leader.

Eucharistic Ministers: Home Visits

- 21) Find person to lead ministry.
- 22) Recruit five new EMs to visit homes.

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- 23) Provide periodic training and enrichment for home visitors.
- 24) Explore possibilities of establishing a "Stephen's Ministry" at St. Joe's.

Eucharistic Ministers: B'way and Avalon.

- 25) Provide music for communion services.
- 26) Find parishioners to lead rosaries for residents.
- 27) Recruit 8 youths to facilitate prayer groups, bible readings and storytelling.

Eucharistic Ministers: Sunday Mass

- 28) Recruit and train 20 new EMs.
- 29) Provide semi-annual mornings of enrichment for all EMs.

Ushers

- 30) Recruit 4 new ushers for Saturday 4:45.
- 31) Recruit 4 new ushers for Sunday 6:00.
- 32) Renew usher training for defibrillator.
- 33) Teach all ushers emergency systems.
- 34) Add at least one new hospitality process/task for Sunday Masses.

Altar Servers

- 35) Recruit/train 20 new servers (gr. 4-12).
- 36) Create teams of altar servers.
- 37) Enhance system for scheduling servers so all teams serve at all Masses.
- 38) Identify and empower seasoned servers.
- 39) Provide trips to reward junior servers.
- 40) Provide trips to reward seasoned servers.

Music: Sunday Mornings (9:30 and 11:30)

- 41) Recruit 8 new singers and musicians.
- 42) Provide semi-annual Spiritual enrichment sessions for musicians.
- 43) Spiritual Programs for music ministers.
- 44) Open summer choir to entire parish.

Music: Sunday Evenings (6:00)

- 45) Recruit 4 new singers and musicians.
- 46) Provide semi-annual Spiritual enrichment sessions for musicians.

Prayer Chain

- 47) Recruit at least 8 new members.
- 48) Have prayer meeting for members and anyone with interest.

Our Existing Prophetic Ministries

(Ministries that console and challenge people and cultivate faith)

Youth Ministry

- 49) Increase high school students' participation in all liturgical ministries.
- 50) Recruit five new adults to participate in youth ministry.
- 51) Keep parish informed of youth ministry's activities.
- 52) Host a dinner dance for adults with special needs.
- 53) Create network of pen pals -- parish's Senior Citizens and our college students.
- 54) Formalize the parish process for sending new students off to college.
- 55) Honor graduating high school students who have been active at church.
- 56) Create system to stay in touch with college students.
- 57) Increase youth and adult participation in Catholic Heart Work Camp.

Walking with Purpose (Women's Bible)

- 58) Offer a daytime class.
- 59) Offer childcare.
- 60) Engage MMOG and Christian churches.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

- 61) Provide spiritual growth for volunteers.

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

- 62) Introduce IHN ministry members to other social concerns ministries.
- 63) Have St. Joe's host homeless families for 2 weeks in summer rather than 1.
- 64) Lift number of Virtus-trained members.

Religious Education

- 65) Create "Religious Education and Formation Committee" to evaluate and support religious education program.
- 66) Provide movie nights for young people.
- 67) Make Pottery Workshop a yearly event.
- 68) Recruit teachers earlier in cycle.
- 69) Offer spiritual enrichment for teachers.
- 70) Develop ways to thank teachers.
- 71) Expand services for children with special needs.
- 72) Advance the "Kindness Project."
- 73) Convene teachers to swap ideas.
- 74) Reconciliation/Adoration for children.

Programs for People with Special Needs.

- 75) Improve email list and communication.
- 76) Thank people who provide parties.
- 77) Recruit 10 volunteers to serve program.

Our Existing Kingly Ministries

(Ministries that build the community and enable it to function)

Parish Pastoral Council

- 78) Overhaul parish communications (web page, email, all social media).
- 79) Expand programs for children and teens.
- 80) Create "Religious Education and Formation Committees" as a committee of the Parish Council, to evaluate and support religious education program.
- 82) Explore possibilities to expand adult ed.

Parish Finance Council

- 81) Enhance partnership with Parish Council
- 82) Explore best practices at other parishes and throughout diocese.
- 83) Improve flow of financial information to the entire parish.

Money Counters

- 84) Recruit at least six new money counters for Mondays and two more for Sundays.
- 85) Provide ushers with new collection baskets.

Buildings & Grounds

- 86) Recruit three new members from the trades, with experience in physical plant management or engineering.
- 87) Establish priorities for repairs and improvements.
- 88) Establish reliable vendor lists – i.e., lists of preferred plumbers, electricians, contractors, etc.
- 89) Create an IT group.
- 90) Create a Grounds Management group.

Grocery Card Sales

- 91) Recruit 8 more volunteers to sell cards.
- 92) Increase advertising for grocery cards.

Somerset Patriots Concession Ministry

- 93) Recruit 20 new people to help staff 2-4 games each.
- 94) Recruit 10 people to be part of the core group – i.e., the group that works at least seven of the eleven games.

Knights of Columbus

- 95) Recruit many new members.
- 96) Enhance efforts for social justice.
- 97) Invigorate the soccer shoot-out.
- 98) Energize young Knights program.

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- 99) Have at least 25 Virtus-trained Knights.
- 100) Increase number of fish fries.

Priestly Ministries We Could Use

- 101) Give Senior Citizens rides to church.
- 102) Hold regular Benediction.
- 103) Start men's bible study.
- 104) Provide a spiritual speaker series.
- 105) Offer social justice speakers.
- 106) Assist with bible studies in prisons.
- 107) Organize weekend retreats.
- 108) Hold vespers for major holydays.
- 109) Provide a religious movie series.
- 110) Offer post-funeral prayer support.
- 111) Help Caregivers pray.
- 112) Use parish internet and email to request emergency prayers.

Prophetic Ministries We Could Use

- 113) Provide rides to dialysis.
- 114) Provide rides to cancer treatments.
- 115) Clean homes of people in dialysis or cancer treatment.
- 116) Provide meals for families with a member in cancer treatment.
- 117) Start a prison ministry.
- 118) Provide gifts for children of people in jail.
- 119) Create a marriage ministry.
- 120) Offer Valentine dinner evening with speaker on uplifting marriage.
- 121) Offer retreats for couples.
- 122) Offer "date nights" for married couples at church, with dinner and speakers.
- 123) Start a speaker series for couples in healthy marriages.
- 124) Start a speaker series for couples in

troubled marriages (to be held at a remote location).

- 125) Get "Retroville" to St. Joe's.
- 126) Start an annulment ministry – people who have been through the process help people going through it.
- 127) Improve outreach to homebound.
- 128) Get weekly bulletins to homebound.
- 129) Support caregivers of homebound.
- 130) Use parish email to help parishioners find caregivers.
- 131) Expand outreach to young parents.
- 132) Reactivate mothers' group.
- 133) Start young father's group.
- 134) Expand parish athletic programs.
- 135) Convene widows and widowers.
- 136) Provide support for children who have lost parents and parents who have lost children.
- 137) Expand new parishioners' ministry to include dinners.
- 138) Use parish internet and email to mobilize immediate response to natural disasters.

Kingly Ministries We Could Use

- 139) Recreation programs for Seniors.
- 140) Local touring options for Seniors.
- 141) Church-cleaning brigades.
- 142) Yard cleaning brigades.
- 143) Parking lot clean up brigades.
- 144) Forest clean up brigades.
- 145) Holiday decorating brigades.
- 146) Holiday clean up brigades.
- 147) Donuts after more masses.
- 148) Cheese and crackers after the 4:45.
- 149) Cheese and crackers after the 6:00
- 150) Thursday night beer ministry.

When you settle on a commitment, contact the ministry that interests you or email ministries@stjosephsparish.com

PART III: NEXT STEPS FOR KINGS

King David's life and example help us to understand what it means "to remain forever a member of Christ who is priest, prophet and king." King David built the community as did no king before or after him. His many achievements include establishing harmony within the kingdom and building up Jerusalem.

Jesus – "King of Kings," "King of the Universe," "Eternal King" – also teaches us how important it is to build up community, to establish harmony in our community and to take care of our spiritual home without going overboard.

Our baptisms call us to be kings here at St. Joe's – to help to build up the community, to help establish harmony and to care for our spiritual home's physical condition. The call to build community provides our fifth and sixth CL challenges, the fellowship challenge and the home improvement challenge.

A) THE FIFTH CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Our parish already sponsors many hours of fun, many chances for parishioners to get together for the simple gladness of being together. The list of fellowship options is long and, like every aspect of parish life, has room to grow. Fellowship time, which fosters authentic community and harmonious community, constitutes the fifth CL Challenge, the CL FELLOWSHIP CHALLENGE.

THE FIFTH CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN PARISH FELLOWSHIP

**SPEND CL MINUTES MORE AT PARISH FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
THAN YOU DID LAST YEAR – AND BRING A FRIEND**

OR

ORGANIZE CL NEW MINUTES OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Many of our parish's current offerings are suitable for all parishioners. Others are more tailored to particular groups. The following (partial) roster of our parish's re-creational offerings is intended to help you answer two questions:

- (i) "How would I/we like to spend CL more fun minutes at church?"
- (ii) "What additional fellowship offering might I/We organize?"

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Partial List of Fellowship Opportunities	
<u>Event</u>	<u>Hours/year</u>
<u>Food at Church</u>	
Sunday Donuts <i>After the 9:30 Mass every Sunday for a half hour</i>	26
First Wednesdays <i>An hour of coffee and treats after the 8:30 each 1st Wednesday</i>	12
Knights of Columbus Pancakes <i>3 or 4 Sundays per year, remarkable Sunday morning pancakes</i>	8
Knights of Columbus Fish Fries <i>3 or 4 Fridays per year, impressive fish and fun</i>	12
Monday Night Football <i>Leave it to the K of C – hot dogs, Giants and Jets</i>	6
St. Patrick's Day Dinner and altogether Irish Night <i>March 18 this year – between Patrick and Joseph Days</i>	4 (67)
<u>Performing Arts at Church</u>	
PJ Anderson Concert <i>A major talent from Nashville, back by popular demand (12/18)</i>	3
Westfield Ballet School Christmas Performance for Kids <i>Young ballet dancers for an afternoon benefit 12/19</i>	3
Godspell (Pentecost Weekend, 2016) <i>A superb oldie, in the church, to warm all hearts</i>	3 (9)
<u>Sports at Church</u>	
Ice skating <i>The rink isn't here yet but will be unbelievable</i>	24
Golf <i>The first big outing planned for late April, very nearby</i>	5
Croquet <i>Not just for codgers and not just for the picnic</i>	8
2x2 CL mile relay <i>What is the greatest number of miles you can contribute</i>	15 (52)

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

<u>Youth Fellowship at Church</u>	
Double Sundays <i>Twice a month, after 6 pm Mass, only God knows what's in store</i>	20
Great Adventure – in Spring and Fall <i>Can you Kingda Ka?</i>	10
Scare Farm <i>Lost in the corn maze on Halloween, again?</i>	5
Bowling <i>God loves the gutter guys and gals too</i>	6
Movie Night <i>Sometimes outside, unless its cold and <u>Lord of the Rings</u></i>	6 (47)
<u>Fellowship at Church for People with Special Needs</u>	
September Campfire <i>Live music, hotdogs, s'mores and sweaters</i>	2
October Halloween Party <i>Prizes in more categories than you can imagine</i>	2
November Dance Party with Caller <i>Get the dancing shoes ready to square dance</i>	3
December HO HO HO DOWN <i>Santa arrives at our semi formal party</i>	2
January Spaghetti Supper <i>Start the low-carb diet AFTER Valentine's day</i>	2
February Make and Bake Pizza and Ice Cream <i>Ice Cream is not, repeat not, restricted to summer</i>	2
March Irish Night <i>Join the Knights of Columbus and the entire parish</i>	2
April Bowling <i>Show them how its REALLY done</i>	2
May Pizza at Frank's in Manville <i>Call it the first solemn high pizza of Spring</i>	3
June Car Wash and 5k Walk <i>More fun to wash than to be washed, for sure</i>	3 (23)
	199

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

B) THE SIXTH CL CHALLENGE: TAKE A NEXT STEP IN IMPROVING OUR CHURCH FACILITIES

Our CL years have been greatly blessed in terms of our physical facilities. Our new church on this side of the river, like our old one on the other side, "is a church that has done what a church should do." And like our prayer lives, our ministries and our fellowship, it is ready for us to take next steps. Our Buildings and Grounds committee has taken a thorough inventory of our physical plant and identified CL improvements that parishioners can fund or complete. That list forms the basis of the sixth CL challenge, the CL HOME IMPROVEMENT CHALLENGE.

THE CL HOME IMPROVEMENT CHALLENGE
COMPLETE OR FUND ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE LIST OF
CL HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Parking Lot, Entrance

- 1) Install new banner poles (DONE)
- 2) Build brick wall to hang seasonal banners near entry boulder
- 3) Clear weeds from Colonial Dr. (DONE)
- 4) Plant daffodil and hyacinth bulbs at Yorktown Road *Welcome Sign*

Parking Lot

- 5) Weed entire parking lot (DONE)
- 6) Clean parking lot (DONE)
- 7) Weed all plant/tree beds (DONE)
- 8) Restripe all white lines and re-paint all blue and yellow areas (DONE)
- 9) Replace current lighting w/LED bulbs
- 10) Install banner hardware on light post to fly seasonal and special occasion banners (DONE)
- 11) Install drought-resistant perennial plants in islands
- 12) Replace dead trees with drought-resistant street trees in larger islands

Veterans Memorial Island in Parking Lot

- 13) Create a memorial "Veterans' Island" in the center of the parking lot
- 14) Provide Veterans' monument w/plaque
- 15) Add pole to display U.S. and MIA flags
- 16) Install secondary flagpole - OR yardarm on main flagpole
- 17) Plant 2 drought resistant street trees
- 18) Plant 2 ornamental grass
- 19) Provide portable fire-pit for Easter vigil
- 20) – 23) Plant four shrubs

Church - Main Entrance, exterior

- 24) Provide comfortable weather-proof benches
- 25) Install old-fashioned church bells
- 26) Replace doorway sconce globes to match
- 27) Install lighting that illuminates trees near walk.
- 28) Refresh the white paint on wind-chimes post

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

Church – Entry, Interior Vestibule

- 29) Spackle and paint walls and ceiling
- 30) Install spotlight for icon
- 31) Provide umbrella stands
- 32) Upgrade Missal table
- 33) Upgrade information board

Church - Gathering Space areas

- 34) Spackle and paint walls and ceiling, and hallway walls
- 35) Spackle and paint walls of Coat Room
- 36) Add church pews for seating (DONE)
- 37) Build matching movable food collection and baby-collection bins for Coat Room
- 38) Hang a framed portrait of Pope Francis
- 39) Provide remote-control, battery-operated flameless candles for hallway saints' nooks
- 40) Obtain child's stepstool for Men's Room

Church - Hospitality Room

- 41) Spackle and paint walls and ceiling
- 42) Upgrade kitchenette cabinetry
- 43) Build storage units w/stainless steel top along wall to double for buffet server
- 44) Create decorative molding on fireplace wall to enhance artwork
- 45) Provide stainless steel countertop and backsplash
- 46) Replace old TV with large wall-mount flat-screen TV
- 47) Provide a stainless steel buffet table
- 48) Obtain 3 restaurant-grade hot coffee/decaf/water urns
- 49) Obtain heavy-duty toaster

Church – St. Francis Garden (outside Hospitality Room)

- 50) Regrade area to redirect water toward sump pump drainage
- 51) Power wash patio (DONE)
- 52) Build gated barrier to keep deer and ground hogs out of garden area.
- 53) Fix fountain or convert it to a planter

- 54) Restore church bells
- 55) Provide maintenance-free patio furniture
- 56) Build and install a bird house

Church – Chapel for Daily Mass

- 57) Spackle and paint walls and ceiling
- 58) Obtain four church pews
- 59) Sew matching seat cushions
- 60) Provide 2 glass smoke-chimneys for wax-candle sconces
- 61) Provide 2 bladeless circulation fans
- 62) Provide a CD player for chapel music
- 63) Obtain a CD set of Chanting French Nuns (DONE)

Church - Music Room

- 64) Spackle and Paint walls
- 65) Provide a dehumidifier
- 66) Repair piano bench upholstery

Church - Reconciliation Room

- 67) Spackle and paint ceiling and walls
- 68) Provide a silent bladeless fan
- 69) Replace table w/2-tier bookshelf table
- 70) Sew new privacy panel "curtains"
- 71) Swap-out blue chairs for 2-3 cushioned oak chairs, one with kneeler
- 72) Obtain a reading lamp for confessor.

Church - Sanctuary

- 73) Treat all wood surfaces w/Linseed Oil
- 74) Spackle and paint 2 main alcove walls
- 75) Paint lower walls - change color
- 76) Elevate Cross
- 77) Facilitate removal and restoration of old church windows (9) into artwork
- 78) Secure 2 50-unit electric candle stands
- 79) Obtain 4 silent, bladeless floor fans
- 80) Provide durable center-aisle carpet from middle door to altar
- 81) Install rubber bumpers to pew kneelers
- 82) Sew snaps to Altar Linen :: gold tassels (DONE)

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

Church - Sanctuary Choir Loft

- 83) Secure 4 used church pews
- 84) Construct "safety rails" at step area
- 85) Supply 4 new monitors
- 86) Obtain updated choir microphones
- 87) Acquire wireless hand-held MICs
- 88) Provide a drum enclosure
- 89) Purchase percussion area carpet mat
- 90) Obtain easy-adjust music stands

Church - Working Sacristy

- 91) Spackle and paint walls and ceiling
- 92) Install stainless steel countertop & backsplash

Memorial Hallway, Link to Parish/Offices

- 93) Spackle and paint ceiling and walls
- 94) Obtain framed portraits of Saint Pope John XXIII and John Paul II
- 95) Provide framed pictures of former SJ pastors
- 96) Research old SJ Eagle Scout projects & names and hang recognition plaque
- 97) Write and frame bio of Father Theo to accompany his bust

Main Entrance PARISH HALL/Adm.Offices

- 98) Install trellises at wall to left of door to parish hall (when facing the door).
- 99) Remove spindly pine tree from left of door to parish hall (DONE).
- 100) Obtain and install bike rack
- 101) Upgrade the 2 existing park benches
- 102) Provide 6 large flower pots to enhance curb appeal (DONE)
- 103) Purchase matching outdoor mats for doors to parish hall and memorial hall.

Parish Hall Vestibule

- 104) Replace carpet with more durable and easy to clean wood-like flooring
- 105) Install two pews for seating in area (SEMI-DONE - acquired but not paid for)
- 106) Supply a cushion for each pew.

- 107) Acquire matching frames for pictures of St. Joseph, Pope and Bishop.
- 108) Find right table for vestibule (DONE)
- 109) Order playful, colorful, floor mat with appropriate logo for vestibule floor.

Parish Hall

- 110) Build 2 storage units w/stainless steel tops to double for picnic buffets to flank doors at north end of parish hall.
- 111) Provide uniform wall frames for evacuation plans and other semi- and permanent notices
- 112) Provide a player piano
- 113) Repair window blinds and window cornices

Parish Hall, Kitchen

- 114) Purchase stainless steel workbench (DONE)
- 115) Purchase 3 portable stainless-steel buffet tables w/storage capacity space
- 116) Purchase stainless-steel utensil-condiment caddy for catered events
- 117) Build storage pantry room w/shelves
- 118) Replace all cabinetry
- 119) Install stainless-steel window ledge
- 120) Purchase no-slip kitchen floor mats

Administrative Offices

- 121) Paint the file cabinets to match
- 122) Provide 2 safe baby-changing units for Men/Ladies Rooms
- 123) Update table and lamp, seating for waiting space

Signage - Exterior

- 124) Install raised letters "St. Joseph Parish" on wall to left of door #16
- 125) Install raised letters "St. Joseph Church" and Cross on wall between Entry Doors #1

Next Steps for St. Joseph's Priests, Prophets and Kings

- 126) Provide directory/map by front door showing church, parish hall, labyrinth, Divine Mercy Shrine, Blessed Sacrament Window, stations, prayer path and parsonage
 - 127) Etch glass of entry Doors #1 -symbol
 - 128) Add frosted glass to vestibule Doors CH-100A & B
 - 129) Etch Parish Hall entry Doors #16 (symbol and wording)
 - 130) Upgrade existing Millstone street signs "This way to St. Joseph's"
- Church Grounds**
- 131) Mow south side weeds (DONE)
 - 132) Mow weeds in front of Solar Panel Fence (DONE)
 - 133) Install forsythia hedge and ornamental grass around outside of solar panel fence
 - 134) Plant a patch of 150 daffodils in front of forsythia hedge (seven patches in total) in front of solar panel fence
 - 135) Maintain Divine Mercy Prayer Path
 - 136) Clean-up and restore rain garden
 - 137) Move Shed away from Door #12
- Mount Calvary/Retention Pond Area**
- 138) Weed and restore the Labyrinth
 - 139) Clean-up and maintain from debris, silt and trash from detention pond and spillways
 - 140) Cut weeds to allow future routine grass mowing at Mt Calvary (DONE)
 - 141) Rake weed cuttings from Mt Calvary
 - 142) Plant 150 Hyacinth and daffodil bulbs on top of Mt Calvary
 - 143) Plant 4-5 drought resistant ornamental grass clumps in a unified stand on the bank near Mt Calvary
 - 144) Plant 5-6 additional burning bushes to unify the existing ones into one stand near Mt Calvary
 - 145) Plant 4-5 drought resistant lilacs on the bank near Mt Calvary
 - 146) Plant 4-5 drought resistant butterfly bushes on the bank near Mt Calvary
 - 147) Replenish the 1/4" brown stone chips on steps leading to Mt Calvary
 - 148) Construct and erect bat-houses in forested areas near Mt Calvary
 - 149) Construct and erect birdhouses in Mt Calvary area
 - 150) Construct and erect bat-house in forested area of Mt Calvary
- General BONUS ITEMS**
- 151) Obtain large capacity heavy-duty wheel barrow from Lowes
 - 152) Provide heavy-duty hand-cart
 - 153) Obtain 2-shelf, mail-room type cart for moving smaller items
 - 154) Provide upright/canister bag-less heavy-duty vacuum
 - 155) Repair/clean blue chairs

If any of these projects interest you individually, or if they interest a group of which you are a part, please email our parish buildings and grounds committee at stjoesbng@gmail.com

PART IV: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

We are able to celebrate our CL jubilee year because of those who have gone before us. Since the October after Grant and Lee met at Appomattox, since the decade when Pope Pius IX convened the first Vatican Council, clarified the idea of papal infallibility and surrendered the Papal States, since the time when New Jersey was home to fewer than one million people (vs. nine million today), St. Joe's parishioners have been praying, serving and building community.

Think for a moment of our parish's CC anniversary, and beyond that, its CCL and CCC. The people of those eras will, God willing, look back and bless what we are doing this year, the parish's CL, just as we look back with gratitude to those who gave us the gifts we enjoy today, to those who celebrated the parish's first Mass, to those who celebrated the L and the C and the CXV.

For our parish ancestors we can pray:

*Eternal rest grant unto them oh Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen.*

For ourselves we can pray:

*Lord, teach us to be generous, to serve you as you deserve,
To give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek for reward,
Save that of knowing we are doing Your will.*

For those who will celebrate the next great milestones we can pray:

*Lord, please bless them and keep them,
Let Your face shine upon them and be gracious to them.
Look upon them kindly and give them peace.
And may we bequeath to them the parish community You desire for them.*

150 POINTS-OF-LIGHT PROPOSAL

Project Team Name _____

Project Team Coordinator _____

Coordinator's email _____

Coordinator's phone _____

Project Description:

** It is the responsibility of the project team coordinator to ensure that all local laws are adhered to and that the project is completed in a safe manner.

** Please email this form to 150pol@stjosephsparish.com, fax to 908 431 5252 or drop off in the Gathering Space in the 150 POL box.