

St. Joseph Catholic Academy

Adult Faith Formation Plan

2011-2012



A Vision for Catholic Education

in Kenosha

We are located in 2 buildings, Lower Campus (Preschool - 5) at 14th Ave., and the Upper Campus (6 - 12) at 69th St. They are within walking distance of each other.

Upper Campus
2401 69th St. Kenosha

Lower Campus
7202 14th Ave. Kenosha

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History of St. Joseph Catholic Academy

St. Joseph Catholic Academy began with the goal of being an educational leader and innovator in the Catholic community of Kenosha. To accomplish this SJCA opened its doors to students on August 23, 2010. This newly created Academy began with 660 students from preschool through grade 12 on two campuses.

The Academy is the result of a vision for Catholic education in Kenosha. In terms of Catholic education, Kenosha has been a microcosm of the rest of the northern part of the United States. Waves of Catholic immigrants in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries began by building various ethnic parishes. There were twelve parishes in the city, and ten of them were built to serve ethnic populations. Almost immediately each parish would build a parochial school to help them maintain their faith and culture. A successful manufacturing industry brought a middle class prosperity to the city, and the community generously made their faith manifest by investing in their parish churches and, in particular, in their parish schools. In the mid-1950's the parishes joined together to build a unified Catholic High School. Today, ten parishes minister to Kenosha's Catholic community but, as is also true nationwide, the Catholic school enrollment has continued to decrease over the past several decades.

In order to better serve the people of Kenosha, three parishes joined forces in 2010 to establish St. Joseph Academy. The school combines St. Mark's Elementary School, originally established in 1921; St. Joseph Inter-Parish Junior High School which opened in the High School building around 1990; and St. Joseph High School founded in 1957. The intention was to create a seamless pre-K through 12 curriculum. Because this was to be a new entity, the archdiocese directed that all school positions had to be open-listed and all of the current staff had to reapply for their jobs. One of the primary emphases of employment was that the staff had to have a conscious and a strong view of their Catholic identity. The academy is still in its first year, but enrollment jumped 20 percent this first year which generated a spirit of excitement and fostered a sense of accomplishment.

The mission statement of St. Joseph Catholic Academy articulates how we embrace our Catholic faith by modeling the teachings of Christ through example and service. SJCA commits our students to making a difference in this world by being responsible citizens and by living the Christian values that affirm the dignity of all faiths and the unique gifts of each person.

Even for those who have been around for a number of years, it is clear that our history no longer goes back to 1921, 1957, or 1990, but goes forward by focusing on the future. We see ourselves as a new brand of Catholic education. SJCA exemplifies a twofold Catholic identity and 21st century learning theme. We hope to model what can be done by unifying multiple schools and supporting parishes in a pre-K through 12 Catholic school system.

The school operates using a President/Principal model. One president presides over the entire system, and there is a Principal for the 6 – 12 campus, as well as one for the preschool – 5 campus. It is controlled by a Board of Trustees and is supported by the parishes of Kenosha, who also are entrusted with the task of supporting another city-wide preschool through 8 System.

St. Joseph Catholic Academy Adult Faith Formation

Our Purpose

We, the St. Joseph Catholic Academy Community:

- Dedicate ourselves to providing dynamic learning experiences in a culture of Catholic faith and service;
- Take personal responsibility for the development of individual talents to build a better world;
- Remain committed to securing the resources to ensure an enriched educational environment for a diverse staff and student body;
- Strive to build unity for the advancement of the school among students, families, staff, parishes and the community.

Our School Mission

St. Joseph Catholic Academy is committed to providing the very best in Catholic education. We embrace our Catholic faith by modeling the teachings of Jesus through example and service. The highest standards in education are measured by proven methods that engage all our students. Our students will develop curiosity, seek out questions, and learn critical problem-solving skills.

Adult Faith Formation Mission/Vision of St. Joseph Catholic Academy

We embrace our Catholic faith by modeling the teachings of Christ through example and service. As a Christian educational community we foster one another's spiritual development in order to enhance our Catholic identity, which also enables us to experience Christ in one another.

Adult Faith Formation Goals

- To build a Christian community by fostering mutual respect and personal growth.
- To heighten an awareness in each person of the baptismal call to serve others.
- To provide the opportunities to share our personal faith experiences to encourage and support our community in our efforts to build the Kingdom of God.
- To provide the means for a life-long pursuit of wisdom, holiness, and knowledge.
- To provide tools that enable the adults to foster the students' understanding and application of their faith.
- To support our faculty and staff in their goal live out our mission to teach as Jesus did.

“Come, Enjoy the Feast!” – Lessons from Babette’s Feast

Great Feasts Require:

- Invitation
- Preparation
- Presentation
- Celebration

It’s important for us as a planning team to remember the messages of *Babette’s Feast*. We’re facilitators for experiences -

- We have something great to offer: “Here’s something that will improve your life, your experiences, your ‘job’”
- We believe in what we’re doing: “This will add value to your life, not suck it out of you”
- We’re enthusiastic: “This will be great! You don’t want to miss it!”
- We’re offering a gift, not a burden
- When possible, we will incorporate our message into what we already do

Do:	Don't:
create a heart of gratitude	cut corners
make time	make excuses
believe in your gifts	lose hope
believe in the end product	empower fear
serve with joy	forget that God is in charge
spice up your recipe	

The people who come to the feast have many different perspectives – some may be eager to dive in, some may be hesitant, some may be ready to share their faith, some may be in new territory and stretched in new ways. We need to make sure our plans engage people wherever they’re at, is life-giving, and is easily applicable to our day-to-day lives. As in the film, we rely on the generals in our midst – those who will identify what is being offered and will lead others into the richness of the feast. If we stay the course with humble enthusiasm, the feast will transform people and draw them closer to each other and closer to the Lord.

We hope these opportunities will result in life-giving transformations. Our Catholic faith is a marvelous tool for providing these transforming moments. When our faith is nourished through shared experiences we tend to open the door to allowing interior connections to form and thrive. A vibrant Faith Formation program that touches and transforms our lives will touch and transform the entire spiritual culture of our school.

We need to prepare our activities with selfless love, offer a piece of ourselves, not worry about how people will respond, and allow the Lord to guide the outcome and make it appealing and nourishing. *The little we have, placed into the hands of Jesus with faith and trust, will equal enough to feed the multitude (with left-overs).*

Calendar

Theme: Nourishment Throughout the Liturgical Seasons – “Come, Enjoy the Feast!”

General Notes:

- The “Weekly Faculty Prayer Time” will be offered on a regular basis before/after school in the chapel. This will be led by a rotation of people who either prepare a brief prayer or lead informal spontaneous prayer.
- The “Book Club” will use a book that has not yet been determined. The goal is to engage in faith-based discussion.
- The “Monthly Service” will take place at a local Soup Kitchen. We as a group will commit to volunteering there one day a month. If enough are interested, we can easily expand our commitment to more than one day per month.

Calendar:

August 2011

- Opening Faculty, Staff, and Board Retreat Day (15th) – [Intellectual; Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]
 - *Babette’s Feast* – view movie in segments, small group discussions, focus primarily on the role of the people
 - The Meaning of the Mass
 - Faith Sharing
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]

September 2011

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service (tentative: 15th) – Theme: *We Are Church – How Do We Celebrate?* Core presentation on the new translation of the Roman Missal; theological reflection groups. [Intellectual; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

October 2011

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service (tentative: 20th) – Theme: *We Are Church – Living Our Faith*. Core presentation on the relationship between our faith and the Lancer Value System (Spirituality, Humility, Generosity, Respect, Acceptance, Integrity, Accountability, Commitment); faith sharing groups. [Intellectual; Spiritual; Pastoral]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

November 2011

- “Sustaining the Mission” (Nov. 4th) [Intellectual]
- Discussion and Theological Reflection based on the “Catholic 101 Sustaining the Mission” session [Intellectual; Spiritual]
- In-House service project: We give thanks by serving others (voluntary). We will serve our school community through our assistance with a project as determined by our development department. [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

December 2011

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service (tentative: 15th) – Theme: *Advent and Christmas Family Traditions*. A variety of faculty / staff will share their family traditions, how they celebrate Advent and Christmas, and what it means to them; faith sharing groups. [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

January 2012

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service (tentative: 12th) – Theme: *Christ Among Us – Incarnational Spirituality*. Core presentation on Incarnational Spirituality and Catholic Social Teaching; theological reflection groups. [Intellectual; Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

February 2012

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service (tentative: 16th) – Theme: *Lent – A Renewed Understanding of Reconciliation*. Core presentation on the sacrament of Reconciliation and examination of conscience; opportunity for reconciliation. [Intellectual; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of *Book Club* (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

March 2012

- “Sustaining the Mission” (March 15th) [Intellectual]
- Discussion and Theological Reflection based on the “Catholic 101 Sustaining the Mission” session [Intellectual; Spiritual]
- Seder Meal (sometime during Lent) [Intellectual; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

April 2012

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service – Theme: *Social Justice – A Community Service Project*. Service project for a local organization (date, organization, and project to be determined). Processing (tentative: 19th) through discussion and reflection. [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

May 2012

- Faculty & Staff Formational In-service (tentative: 17th) – Theme: *Embracing the Holy Spirit*. Core presentation on the transformative power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; faith sharing groups. [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time – rotation of prayer leaders, pre-assigned (voluntary) [Pastoral; Spiritual]
- Monthly Meeting of Book Club (voluntary) [Spiritual]
- Monthly Service: Soup Kitchen (voluntary) [Human; Pastoral; Spiritual]

Elements of Formation

Intellectual Formation

Goal: “Intellectual formation seeks to develop the lay ecclesial minister’s understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith, which is rooted in God’s revelation and embodied in the living tradition of the Church. It consists chiefly of study of the sacred sciences but draws also upon a wide range of other disciplines: philosophy, literature and the arts, psychology, sociology, counseling, medical ethics, culture and language studies, business administration, leadership and organizational development, law, and so on. While the sacred sciences are the main focus here, we recognize the value of these other disciplines and encourage their study and use whenever relevant for effective ministry.” (From *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, 2005, USCCB, page 42.)

Intellectual Formation Opportunities:

- Sustaining the Mission sessions
- The Meaning of the Mass
- Core Presentations
- Theological Reflections
- Small Group Discussions
- Seder Meal

Explanation:

Although the Sustaining the Mission sessions with subsequent theological reflection will address the primary intellectual formation component of our plan, there will be several occasions in which intellectual formation will be embedded into our other activities. In particular, the faculty and staff formational in-service presentations on the Church (Sept./Oct.), Incarnational Spirituality and Catholic Social Teaching (Jan.), and Reconciliation (Feb.) will each contain an intellectual component designed to develop and deepen our understanding and appreciation of our Catholic faith. The Seder meal during lent will enhance participants’ understanding of our Jewish roots and traditions. Our focus on the liturgical seasons of the Church will deepen our understanding of the theological basis of our faith as the Church challenges us to grow and mature through our participation in the liturgical cycle.

Human Formation

Goal: “Human formation seeks to develop the lay ecclesial minister’s human qualities and character, fostering a healthy and well-balanced personality, for the sake of both personal growth and ministerial service.” (From *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, 2005, USCCB, page 36.)

Human Formation Opportunities:

- Opening Retreat
- Service Opportunities
- Core Presentations
- Small Group Discussions

Explanation:

At our opening retreat we plan to incorporate the movie *Babette’s Feast* with small group discussions of the role of the people as guests at the feast. This will be an initial discussion about the ways that human nature affects our engagement with our faith. At our December faculty and staff formational in-service session, we’ll invite a variety of faculty and staff to share how their family traditions have had an impact on their lives. This will give us a context in which we can explore the role of family dynamics and living situations in our experiences of faith. The January session on Incarnational Spirituality will lead to small group discussions of the dignity of the person which is the foundation upon which genuine respect and concern for others is built. In May, our presentation and discussion about the gifts of the Holy Spirit will help each participant to recognize the gifts they have and inspire them to use their gifts to transform the school. Through our service projects we will interact with people as we put our faith into action.

Pastoral Formation

Goal: “Pastoral formation cultivates the knowledge, attitudes, and skills that directly pertain to effective functioning in the ministry setting and that also pertain to pastoral administration that supports direct ministry.” (From *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, 2005, USCCB, page 47.)

Pastoral Formation Opportunities:

- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time
- Small Group Discussions
- Faith Sharing
- Core Presentations
- Service Opportunities

Explanation:

Initially, the Faith Formation team members will prepare the weekly faculty prayer time. It is our hope that as people participate in this activity they will be willing to volunteer to serve as prayer leaders. We will actively seek out those who appear ready to lead prayer and encourage them to do so. Core presentations that will address the pastoral formation component include We Are Church (Sept./Oct.), Catholic Social Teaching (Jan.), Reconciliation (Feb.), and Embracing the Holy Spirit (May). All of these will include some small group discussion and/or faith sharing in which participants will reflect on how the material that was presented might influence their participation in ministry. The service projects we engage in will provide the opportunity to put our ministry into action. All of these pastoral formation opportunities will aid in developing our understandings of and dispositions about our role in ministry.

Spiritual Formation

Goal: “Spiritual formation aims to arouse and animate true hunger for holiness, desire for union with the Father through Christ in the Spirit, daily growing in love of God and neighbor in life and ministry, and the practices of prayer and spirituality that foster these attitudes and dispositions. It promotes and strengthens that fundamental conversion that places God, and not oneself, at the center of one’s life. Openness to this ongoing conversion is a prerequisite for fruitful spiritual formation.” (From *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, 2005, USCCB, page 38.)

Spiritual Formation Opportunities:

- Opening Retreat
- Weekly Faculty Prayer Time
- The Meaning of the Mass
- Faith Sharing
- Theological Reflection
- Book Club
- Core Presentations
- Service Projects
- Seder Meal

Explanation:

All of the core presentations will include a spiritual formation component that will encourage openness to ongoing conversion. We will have many opportunities to pray together at the opening retreat, the weekly faculty prayer time, and the faculty and staff formational in-service sessions. A variety of prayer styles will be utilized. The instructional mass will enable participants to enter more fully into the spiritual richness of our communal prayer. Small group discussions organized around faith sharing, theological reflection, and the book club will provide opportunities for participants to reflect on their relationship with God, ask questions about their faith, and explore new ideas all with the goal of making their experiences of God meaningful and life-changing. God’s presence in His people will be made real in our service projects as we allow Him to inspire us through our co-workers and the people we serve.

Faith Formation Planning Team 2011-2012

Larry Coe: Theology Department Chair, Theology Teacher (High School)

Brock Elstro: Campus Minister (K-12)

Christopher Lese: Social Studies Teacher (Middle School, High School)

Louise Meyer: Science Department Chair, Science Teacher (High School)

Jane Padlock: Administrative Assistant (Middle School)