

## Marriage and Family Mentorship

**PRE-CANA MENTORSHIP** • The Pre-Cana mentorship program is for engaged couples. The engaged couple meets with a married couple, ideally in the married couple's home. Everything from the artwork on the walls to the bustling children provides a witness to living out the Catholic faith at home. The couples watch five episodes of Beloved: The Mystery and Meaning of Marriage together (available on Formed.org) and, aided by the leader's guide and couple's guide, discuss various aspects of marriage over the course of five meetings.

One participant in the Pre-Cana mentorship program says:

*"As an 'interfaith' marriage, pre-Cana has allowed my fiancé to get to know other Catholics (besides my family/his future in-laws) and see that they are normal people with normal lives. Pre-Cana has opened a door for us to speak about the specifics of Catholicism and, as a result, his understanding of the faith has grown."*



**MARRIAGE MENTORSHIP** • Marriage mentorship at St. John's is for couples who are already married who would like an opportunity to talk about real marriage stuff with a more-seasoned couple. These couples have two programs to choose from (or they can suggest one of their own). The programs provide a jumping off point to discuss topics like communication and forgiveness, but perhaps even more importantly, they allow couples at St. John's to get to know each other on a

deeper level. Mentors and mentees meet six times, but they likely develop a friendship that lasts beyond.

One marriage mentor says:

*"Through the marriage mentorship, we have gotten to know another couple in our parish that we didn't know as well. This wouldn't have happened normally because our two families are at two different places in life, but the mentorship gives us time to learn and pray together. The marriage mentorship has helped me develop a deeper understanding of God's love and his design for marriage. We also have new friends with whom we have learned more, shared experiences, and prayed together."*



**MARRIAGE ACCOMPANIMENT SMALL GROUPS** • The marriage mentorship apostolate also has a small group option for couples who desire to develop community with other Catholic couples. The focus of the group discussion is the vocation of marriage and its related topics. Three couples are matched up and meet about once a month over the course of six months. They watch a video series on marriage together (or read a book, if they prefer) and talk about marriage in an honest way with other couples who share their Catholic faith.

A participant in the marriage accompaniment group shares:

*"As shy, socially awkward people who have a difficult time meeting other parishioners, the marriage support group has helped immensely in getting to know some other parishioners on a deeper level. Learning more about the sacrament of marriage has inspired us to strive to spend more time together, to more intentionally see marriage as a sacrament and a path to heaven, and to remember to keep Jesus at the center of our entire lives."*

# Financial Report 2023

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
Goshen, IN

## Income

Collections	\$792,194.82	86.78%
Program Fees	\$22,503.60	2.47%
Bequests	\$5,331.66	0.58%
Interest	\$28,175.29	3.09%
Bishop's Appeal Overgoal	\$8,024.98	0.88%
Fundraisers	\$29,089.82	3.19%
Other	\$11,144.07	1.22%
Rental Income	\$16,425.00	1.80%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$912,889.24</b>	

## Expenses

Administrative Staff	\$178,972.73	24.85%
School subsidy* †1	\$0.00	0.00%
Music and Liturgical	\$107,213.17	14.89%
Clergy	\$102,126.30	14.18%
Maintenance and Building Costs	\$194,526.20	27.01%
Diocesan Quota	\$39,746.76	5.52%
Adult Formation and Parish Activities	\$36,552.05	5.08%
Youth Ministry	\$31,477.97	4.37%
Religious Education	\$18,872.34	2.62%
Fundraising	\$14,215.67	1.97%
Donations to Others	\$16,012.71	2.22%
Financial and Insurance	\$16,572.87	2.30%
Office Expenses	\$22,743.92	3.16%
<b>Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$779,032.69</b>	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$912,889.24</b>	
<b>Surplus:</b>	<b>\$133,856.55</b>	



## New Parish Office

This year marks the beginning of a new phase of life at St. John's with the acquisition of the new parish office located across the street next to CVS. Our parish Priority Plan has long included the goal of providing a new administrative space for the management of our growing parish, so immediate action was taken when the property adjacent to St. John's was available for purchase. Formerly serving as a law office, the new parish office has been undergoing *extensive* renovation to better serve the needs of our staff and parish. These efforts have all been spearheaded by parishioners of St. John's, who have selflessly offered their time and talents to see the project through to completion. Now we turn to see how this project has impacted their lives and their faith:



**DEMETRIO MEJIA** • *How has this project affected your life?* Prior to volunteering, I was struggling with my faith, and going through some very serious personal problems. Once I started helping with the renovations of the new office, I started to feel closer to God. Donating my time and talents to the church motivated me to begin praying more, which has ultimately led me closer to God!

**JESUS VAZQUEZ** • *How did you become involved in this project, and what does it mean to you?* When the parish purchased the new offices, I was unemployed, and heard that the parish needed help

†1 • Not subsidizing our school this year was the result of grants issued to the school during previous years only being disbursed this year. While we strive for ever-increasing fiscal independence of the school, some degree of parish subsidy will be required again going forward.

improving the new space. I have felt very privileged to be able to help our parish! Coming and helping out has helped me to really focus on what matters most: my faith in Jesus Christ.

**ARNULFO MEJIA** • *How has volunteering for St. John's affected your life?* After losing my wife, I felt alone in life. Even with my three children, I struggled to not feel like I had been abandoned by God. But then I began attending Adoration every Thursday evening, and even though I'm still working through my problems, I have begun to feel the presence of God in my life. By coming to help remodel all the drywall in the new office, I have been able to come out of myself and no longer feel so alone.

**DEACON CHRISTIAN** • *What has been the most rewarding part of this project for you personally?* I think that it



is very important to have good facilities for our parish, but more importantly: it's important to build for the future—for our kids and our community! I have been a part of this parish for 22 years; I grew up here and first heard my call to the diaconate at this parish, and I want to see it continue to grow for the community and for my children.

*How has this project affected your faithlife and of the volunteers?* Coordinating all the volunteers has allowed me to be in close contact with many people, including some volunteers who are (or were) not very close to the faith. Working alongside them has afforded me multiple opportunities to teach them about our Faith and the basics of the spiritual life. We

have been able to connect at the heart-level. One non-parishioner was so generous that he donated nearly 60 hours of hard labor during the demolition process! This project has revealed great need but also great generosity. For my part, balancing this project, my diaconal ministry, and the needs of family life has not been without its challenges; there have been many sacrifices, but it has been very rewarding for me to offer these things to God.



**MARK PODGORSKI** • *How did you become involved in this project?* Fr. Royce asked me to review the inspection report for the property when we were contemplating the initial purchase. After we purchased the property, I offered Fr. Royce my help with the renovations and he took me up on the offer.

*What have been some highlights for you?* The favorite part of any project for me is the brainstorming, goal setting, and creating a design–layout that meets the needs of the people that work in the space. Those discussions are eye opening! The next favorite piece is completing the project and celebrating that completion. We are getting very close to that.

*Has this project affected your faith life in any way?* YES! We have some amazing, faith–filled parishioners that are very willing to give of themselves. Working with them, seeing the dedication, and experiencing all the accomplishments is truly inspiring.

To close: there are *many* more volunteers who have played crucial roles in the completion of this project—too many to even name here! To those parishioners who have played roles both large and small: we thank you!