

VISION STATEMENT



St. Ignatius
Loyola
NEW YORK

St. Ignatius Loyola Planning Committee

A Vision for Our Parish

The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola is a community of faith that shares the gifts each of us brings; a community in which our faith is enriched through the cultivation of a deep spirituality; and a community of diversity that seeks to grow in unity of faith and purpose. The crisis of the pandemic has bolstered our resolve to re-encounter one another and create a “new paradigm of Church.” This year, we convened a Planning Committee of twelve diverse and committed parishioners to develop this new paradigm. After much prayer, contemplation, feedback from fellow parishioners, and discussion, the Committee presents this Vision for a post-pandemic parish.

WE WELCOME ALL

As a community immersed in Ignatian spirituality, we will continue to actively and warmly welcome participation in our parish community from all walks of life, intentionally seeking out others to experience our faith together. We fervently hope that more people will want to deepen their engagement in faith with us. Our new paradigm of Church will express even more openness and warmth to our parish community and our neighbors alike. We will accomplish this by:

- creating a parish that more people will want to come to because of our style of worship, spirit of welcome and inclusion, and active engagement with the world beyond our doors.
- ensuring that we respond to contemporary concerns in matters of society and Church.
- engaging teens, young adults, and children, and balancing our programming to attract them. We will engage with the contemporary concerns of youth and young adults and will seek to address those concerns in homilies, ministries, and programs.
- spreading the word of our work more widely via dialog with other parishes and community organizations, as well as social media.
- fostering community in our parish with community Masses, coffee hours, and a cohesive sense of camaraderie.
- maintaining openness and support for long-time parishioners as we transition to new endeavors as a parish.

WE WORSHIP WITH JOY

Our faith in Jesus Christ and our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist will remain central to our identity as a Catholic Christian community of faith and love. Our faith leads us to action that is rooted in contemplative prayer. Our new paradigm of Church will always be open to creative ways in which we can celebrate the Eucharist, unite ourselves in prayer and be formed in our faith. We will accomplish this by:

- offering opportunities to spiritually nourish our discipleship, offering enrichment programs specific to various age groups so that all have the opportunity for spiritual growth and development.
- amplifying women’s voices in worship and in leading prayer in a variety of settings and formats.
- working to train lay ministers more generally for broader leadership in the parish.
- focusing our energies and resources on what we can do well and what responds to the current needs of the members of our community and the larger community which we serve. To this end, we will actively discern whether our current roster of ministries should be simplified to facilitate the concentration of effort and resources that we desire.
- encouraging more creative forms of worship including a broad set of musical languages that reflect the diversity of styles in prayer and worship within the Catholic tradition.



WE WALK TOGETHER WITH THOSE IN NEED

Our parish community works to foster social justice, via our worship and via direct services. We are committed to both charity and justice; seeking to serve the immediate needs of God's people while working to build a more just and equitable world. Our parish's gratitude for Catholic social teaching is an inspiring light that has drawn many into SIL, reinvigorating how we put our faith into action. Our new paradigm of Church will continue to embody our commitment to social justice, while taking an even more inclusive approach. We will accomplish this by:

- highlighting the Church's teaching on social issues.
- advocating for greater awareness and adoption of issues and causes central to Catholic social teaching and the concerns of our parish.
- providing more opportunities for parishioners to engage in direct services, seeing the impact of our social justice work with first-hand experiences. We will work to make service opportunities easier for our parishioners.
- working in partnership with agencies and organizations—local, national, and international—with expertise in the areas in which we seek to act in charity and justice.
- involving teens and young adults more in our social justice work and engaging more with local Catholic schools. We must actively recruit parishioners of all ages: children, teens, young adults, and beyond.

WE REVERENCE GOD IN THE WONDER OF CREATION

We will become a *Laudato Si* parish, embodying the goal articulated by Pope Francis to care for our common home. Our new paradigm of Church will call us to transform ourselves while reverencing God's creation. We will embrace what we can do as individuals and as a community to contribute to a sustainable future. We will accomplish this by:

- adopting a parish-wide focus on the goals of the *Laudato Si* parishes program, aligning our parish's operations with responses to: the cry of the earth; the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adapting sustainable lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; and community engagement.
- internally converting to usage of environmentally acceptable materials and instituting policies for energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, and the use of environmentally sound products and materials. We will also offer programs that draw from contemporary Church teachings, as well as scientifically sound resources, to educate our parishioners on environmental issues.
- externally educating and advocating for climate and environmental issues. We will work with local community service organizations to offer our parishioners opportunities to commit to public space improvement.

DECEMBER 2021

