

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION
GUIDELINES**

Adopted on

April 8, 2015

St. Joseph Parish

12700 Pearl Road

Strongsville OH 44136

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www.sjohio.org/spirituallife

As every parish, St. Joseph Parish represents a collaborative effort between parishioners and staff working together for the spreading of the Gospel. In particular, our parish is comprised of three consultative groups that assist the Pastor in fulfilling his ministry. As one of these consultative groups, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) exists as a vehicle for gathering the ministries and organizations of the parish as they strive to fulfill the Parish Mission Statement, particularly through the work of its commissions. Every commission assists the PPC in fulfilling its mission by specializing in one particular aspect of parish life.

Mission

The purpose of the Spiritual Life Commission is to propose and help provide opportunities for parishioners to deepen their faith. Its goal is to enhance parishioners' faith and personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, catechesis, spiritual practices and service.

Member Ministries and Organizations

The SLC is comprised of several member ministries and organizations. The most current listing of these is maintained at www.sjohio.org/spiritual and are listed here for your convenience:

Adult Bible Study

Adult Confirmation

Adult Faith Formation Committee

Baptismal Preparation

Cenacle

Couples Ministry/Marriage Preparation

Legion of Mary

Men's Group

Ministry of Praise

MOMS Group

Perpetual Adoration

RCIA

Sacred Space

Small Church Communities

Women's Group

While each of these ministries and organizations possess and exercise their own leadership, the SLC provides a gathering of similar-minded ministries and organizations, and access to the resources of a lay Chairperson and an appropriate Staff Liaison for each ministry and organization.

Representation, Membership and Terms of Membership

While membership on the SLC is open to all parishioners of the parish, ordinarily our membership is composed of those who feel invested in the scope of the Commission's mission, as defined in the above mission section, and as such should strive to be representative of the various member ministries and organizations. Such representation is desirable, but should not make membership exclusive to only people involved in its member ministries and organizations. The SLC will consist of 10 to 12 members and terms of rotation will be reviewed each July, to ensure the best completion of its work.

Responsibilities of Members

SLC members are expected to:

- 1. Show personal commitment to St. Joseph Parish**
- 2. Participate (personally or through email) in regular meetings of the Commission**
- 3. Involve respective ministries in the Commission through suggesting prayer, catechesis, spiritual practices or service activities in accordance with the Commission Mission**
- 4. Review Agenda and prepare for each meeting**
- 5. Listen with interest and show respect for all opinions shared**

Commission Meetings

Regular meetings of the SLC are held bi-monthly (beginning in January) on the third Tuesday of each month. Special meetings will be scheduled as needed. Requests for meeting room use are initiated by the Chairperson and coordinated with the Parish Office.

Leadership of the Commission

Under the facilitation of the Chairperson, the SLC completes its work, collaborating with the Staff Liaison. Together, they collaborate in the coordination and facilitation of the

SLC. In the absence of the chairperson, the Staff Liaison will assume Chairperson responsibilities.

Duties of Leadership

Commission Chairperson

The Chairperson attempts to create an atmosphere of trust and openness that will ensure the best communication among the members of the SLC. Fundamental to this is a respect for the members' ideas and abilities and an ability to facilitate meetings. In addition, the Chairperson is also responsible to:

- 1. Ensure a process for accessibility for member ministries and organization to the Commission. The manner for such accessibility is left to the discretion of the Chairperson.**
- 2. Chairpersons must be mindful that they do not, nor does the commission, exercise leadership over the individual ministries or organization, but facilitate their involvement in meeting the goals of the Commission's responsibility in the life of St. Joseph Parish.**
- 3. Ensure minutes are taken at each Commission meeting, and edited, distributed among the members, and given to the Parish Council Liaison.**
- 4. Collaborate with the Staff Liaison in developing the Commission meeting schedule and meeting agendas.**
- 5. Present an Annual Commission Report at the June Meeting of the PPC.**
- 6. While the chairperson may be a member of the PPC, a commission chairperson may not be an officer of the PPC.**

Staff Liaison

As a paid parish staff member, assigned to the SLC by the Pastor, the Staff Liaison has an important role to play in the workings of the Commission. This person serves as an integral part of any discussions and is both the representative of the Pastor to the Commission and of the Commission to the Pastor. The Staff Liaison strives to be an active participant in the Commission's discussions, visioning, and work in order to fulfill the Commission goals.

PPC Liaison

While invited to be an active part of the Commission's discussion, this person serves primarily as a communication link between the PPC and the Commission. The PPC

Liaison should bring an awareness of the Commission's work and that the PPC to each respective group. He/she is responsible for the communication and transmission of a report of each PPC meeting.

Selection of New Chairperson

Periodically, the Commission should enter into a spirit of discernment and prayer about its leadership. Over time, rotations of leadership should be developed. Due to the length and ongoing nature of Commission work, Chairpersons should serve terms of, at least, two years. Should a Commission Chairperson wish to serve additional one year terms, they may do so with the approval of the Staff Liaison and the concurrence of the majority of the Commission. Voting regarding the Chairmanship of the Commission will occur at the Commission's May meeting, with terms beginning at the July meeting of the same year.

Amendments to Guidelines

Upon the direction of the Chairperson and with the approval of the Staff Liaison, there will be mandatory review of the guidelines at each July meeting. Recommended changes are subject to the approval of a majority of the Commission.