

All Things New Listening Sessions

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the All Things New surveys and provided data and feedback over the past few months. The information has been enlightening, educational, and fruitful as we continue to ask ourselves what our parishes, ministries, and institutions need to look like in order to effectively share our Catholic faith in a way that is suitable and sustainable for our children and generations to come.

The next step in this multi-year process is to hear more robustly from you, our parishioners, about our parish. The Archdiocese of St. Louis will host over 350 listening sessions throughout our 178 parishes between October 8 - November 19, 2022. Our Parish Listening Sessions will be on October 25 and October 27. You are invited to register for our listening sessions beginning mid-September at <https://allthingsnew.archstl.org/>.

Parishioners must register in order to attend a Listening Session. Registration will close once the designated room's seating capacity is reached. There will not be additional opportunities for Listening Sessions other than the ones scheduled for each parish.

Each listening session, including ours, will be facilitated by volunteer parishioners from a different parish. These trained facilitators will share pre-recorded messages from Archbishop Rozanski and Fr. Chris Martin, Vicar for Strategic Planning, with an overview of All Things New, a planning area overview, and multiple DRAFT model options to consider for our respective planning area. A brief time will be allowed for small group discussion and facilitated large group feedback.

The goals of the listening sessions are to engage as many of you as possible in understanding the current state of our parish and diocese and to solicit feedback from as many of you as possible about the DRAFT models options for their planning area.

After the final listening session in each planning area, the Archdiocese of St. Louis will make public the content presented at all the parish Listening Sessions in that planning area and will offer an additional opportunity for parishioners to provide open-ended feedback through an online survey. The survey will remain open until December 31, 2022. Parishioner feedback to the models is critical, as it will be used to help shape the future of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

In order for you to be fully prepared with accurate information before our parish listening sessions, you will receive access to our Parish Workbook.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has created Parish Workbooks as a supplementary resource to help us prepare for the listening sessions. The workbooks are meant to equip us with data about the Archdiocese of St. Louis, our local planning area, and our specific parish. Our Parish Workbook is posted on allthingsnew.archstl.org for anyone to view.

Please continue to pray for the gift of true discernment so that we may continue to do the Will of God in all things.

40 Days for Life

Please consider signing up for a 30-minute or hour shift to pray silently outside of Planned Parenthood with fellow SRA parishioners on Sunday, October 16, between 1:00-4:00pm. Add your name to the SRA Signup Genius at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E44ABA728A20-40days>

For more information about the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil, go to:

<https://coalitionlife.com/40-days-for-life/>

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

In Gratitude

If you pass by the school at night, you may notice that the building looks more lit up than in the past. This is thanks to some great donations from RJP Electric arranged by one of our parishioners, Gus Mantea. This lighting really makes our building look sharp while also adding some safety, since the new installment illuminates the steps from the gym to the parking lot. Thank you so much!

Also, thank you to all of those who helped to organize and participate in last weeks' Family Mass. It was a great start to the new year. We will celebrate our next Family Mass at 10:00am on November 20.

Bother Father/Open Office Hours

Here are the upcoming times in September-October for Bother Father!

Monday, September 19, 5:00-7:00pm

Tuesday, October 11, 5:00-7:00pm

Tuesday, October 18, 9-11:00am

Wednesday, October 26, 2:00-4:00pm

Please consider coming up and visiting!

Picnic Help Needed

We are all looking forward to the SRA Picnic on September 23-24!

For these days to be successful, we need many, many volunteers. Each week on the Mid-Week Update, the picnic committee has sent out the Signup Genius for the picnic booths. If you have not signed up yet, please do so! If you need help with the form, please contact the Parish Office.

Art in the Park

Our school will also have a booth at Art in the Park on September 25! We need some help for that as well! Please check the Signup Genius also on the Mid-Week Update for details about how you can help with this event to promote our school.

I will see you online or in Church! -Fr. John #SRAstrong



New Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Raphael

Would you like to participate in a new ministry here at St. Raphael that wraps fellow parishioners in love and prayers and lets them know they are remembered by their parish in prayer when they are experiencing an illness or death or difficult situations?

If you know how to crochet or knit (or would like to learn) and are interested in creating prayer shawls, please contact Sue Brandt, 314.704.5304 or sbrandtstl@gmail.com.

If you have a stash of yarn in your closet that you've been meaning to use but just haven't gotten around to and you'd like to donate it to this ministry, we would be happy to take your donations.

Watch the bulletin for more information next week.