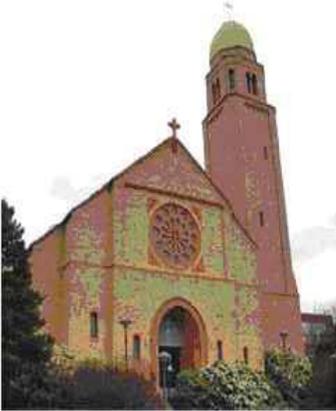


# St John the Evangelist

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Jambo Rafikis!

I'm writing to say asante sana to you for participating in our recent Synod listening sessions and to inform you about what St. John's is doing with your suggestions.

First asante sana for making time on March 27 and April 3 to join the listening sessions Pope Francis asked us to convene. The suggestions that our parishioners made in those sessions were rich and deep, and clearly showed the great love for our faith that so many at St. John's share. Your input was heard and very much appreciated.

As requested by our Archbishop, our Synod Team compiled and forwarded our parishioners' suggestions to the Archdiocese on May 6. The document they sent can be found at this link: [http://stjohnsea.org/Portals/2/St %20John%20Synod%20Input%20to%20Archdiocese.pdf](http://stjohnsea.org/Portals/2/St_%20John%20Synod%20Input%20to%20Archdiocese.pdf) and is available in hard copy from the parish office.

On June 30, the Seattle Archdiocese sent its input to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is available here:

<https://archseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Final-Synthesis-with-appendix-min.pdf>

Here at St. John's, our Executive Committee leadership invited recommendations from our Synod Team for actions we could take in the parish, in response to the suggestions from the listening sessions. Together they identified initial ideas that we could successfully launch without substantial additional resources, and that would benefit the greatest number of parishioners.

We identified three initiatives to explore in greater detail:

1. In response to the broadly expressed desire for access to faith formation resources for adults, we will examine the feasibility of presenting a series of short programs on

campus at regular times and dates. These programs would feature prepared presentations by recognized experts in various areas of our faith, with ample time for questions and answers. We would hope to provide childcare during these programs. We would identify times and days-of-week that would enable the greatest number to participate. We would provide schedules and identify specific topics well in advance.

2. In response to the expressed desire to reinstitute the small 'faith sharing groups' that were once widespread at St. John's, we will review the history of that program to glean the best practices for relaunching it. If you would like to help with a relaunch, please contact the parish office to help bring this ministry back.
3. In response to the widespread concern that we seem to be losing our young adults from the faith, we will examine conducting a survey of our young parishioners and former parishioners to explore reasons why they stay away, and what changes we could make that would bring them back. We will need relevant market research expertise to help make this a professional and effective effort. If you can help, please contact the parish office.

Both initiatives 1 and 2 would also support the commonly expressed want for regular activities that enable our parishioners to become better acquainted with one another and grow together as a parish, in deeper ways than typically happens at coffee and donuts.

This work is all in progress as I write. Subject to our very real resource limitations and to whatever constraints covid imposes, we hope to launch some, or all, of these initiatives in the autumn. Stay tuned for more information as this work progresses. If you have ideas or can volunteer time or expertise to assist with this initial examination phase, please contact Jim Russell at [russelljim12@gmail.com](mailto:russelljim12@gmail.com) or 206 782 6666. As time and resources permit, we will examine other suggestions later.

Thank you for your active participation in our Synodal Church. You have helped it to become even better.

Asante Sana na Mungu awabarik  
(Thank you and God bless you)

Fr. Crispin Okoth  
Pastor