2025 Discernment Meeting

State of the Parish Report

Loving Jesus, Redeemer of the world, we are yours, and yours we wish to be. To bind ourselves to you even more closely we offer you this time of prayer and reflection. May it bear fruit in our lives so that all can clearly see that you are the King of our hearts.

Closing Prayer for Question of the Week

The Frame

Majestic meekness

I walked abroad alone, in a solitary place in my father's pasture, for contemplation. And as I was walking there, and looking upon the sky and clouds, there came into my mind so sweet a sense of the glorious majesty and grace of God, as I know not how to express.—I seemed to see them both in a sweet conjunction; majesty and meekness joined together: it was a sweet, and gentle, and holy majesty; and also a majestic meekness.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

Meekness

- We are a human organization
- We make mistakes and we commit sins
- Transparency and accountability do not merely mitigate mistakes and sins
- They also enable collaboration, or co-responsibility, in the execution of the Church's mission, as Christ intended:

"He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-12

Meekness at CTK

- Annual report (published at the end of the fiscal year but includes pastoral data)
- Annual discernment meeting
- Pastoral council
 - Elected
 - Published minutes
 - Committees open to other parishioners
- Finance council self-perpetuating
- Biweekly staff meetings

Majesty

- We believe that the Gospel is "the power of God for salvation" (Romans 1:16)
- It is not for some people raised Catholic, or Irish and Italian people, or "church types" it is for everyone, as proven by the diversity of the Church
- Although "we are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs," nevertheless our work makes a real contribution to the Kingdom of God

Majesty at CTK

- We believe we have something valuable the Gospel is a unique and indispensable message to all people
- We share our success, through preaching and announcements at Mass, the bulletin front page articles, the annual report, and meetings like this one
- We strive for ongoing improvement through formal channels for proposals, goal-setting, data analysis, etc.

Pastoral Updates

#1

Small Groups



Local Mission with SSJNC

Pr #1 m Small Groups

Working Goal

Every churchgoing parishioner belongs to a small group or uses a tool like the Question of the Week

Results

- √ TMIY, WWP, Blaze, and Strive continue to meet during the school year
- √ At least 9 small groups meet in homes
- √ The Question of the Week is used by others

Pr #2 3m

Local Mission with SSJNC

Local mission

Explanation

- We have a local mission with the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Center (SSJNC) in the Cramer Hill section of Camden
- It is a two-year agreement, September '24 through August '26
 - √ We will provide them with significant volunteer hours and donations
 - √ They will provide us, from homebound parishioners to youth, opportunities for education, advocacy, and service

Local mission Goals

Over two years, we believe the focused availability of our parish to a single community organization will:

- 1. Build new and strengthen existing relationships among our parishioners who will serve side by side at the same place
- 2. Build meaningful relationships with our neighbors in Camden whom we will see regularly over the two years
- 3. Be transformative for us and for SSJNC

Results

- √ 55 parishioners participate
- ✓ New friendships have been made
- √ Raised over \$10K on Giving Tuesday
- √ At least a car-full of non-monetary donations are delivered every week

New Pastoral Projects

- 1. Make a few significant changes to the Religious Education program for Fall 2025, including new textbooks
 - Faith Formation Committee
- 2. Hire a 25-35 hour Coordinator of Evangelization to build on Veronica Spilker's work of supporting and promoting home-based small groups and directing/coordinating existing youth ministries. The person filling this larger position will also be present at Sunday Masses perhaps to take responsibility for Sunday First project.
 - Search Committee of the Pastoral Council

Sunday First

- Lawn signs with the Mass schedule posted along our property Saturday evening through Sunday afternoon
- Parking lot attendants after 9 and 11 AM Masses
- Enhanced vestibule with tightly organized donation space and shelf with Catholic pamphlets
- Enhanced welcome and coordination of baptism families

Sacramental stats

- 41 baptisms scheduled between now and this November
 - First-time parents attend a baptism prep session
- 28 weddings scheduled from this Saturday until November 2026
 - Each wedding represents as many as five appointments (28 x 5 = 140)
- 17 funerals already scheduled this year
 - We need a third bereavement minister

Clergy staffing

- Due to my new diocesan position, we will receive additional clergy:
 - 1. A part-time parochial vicar on July 1
 - 2. A deacon by November
- It is too soon to know how I will divide my time between parish and diocese

Business Updates

Last Year's Projects

- √ Morgan Hall steps and halls
- √ Adoration Chapel renovation
- √ Rosary Room

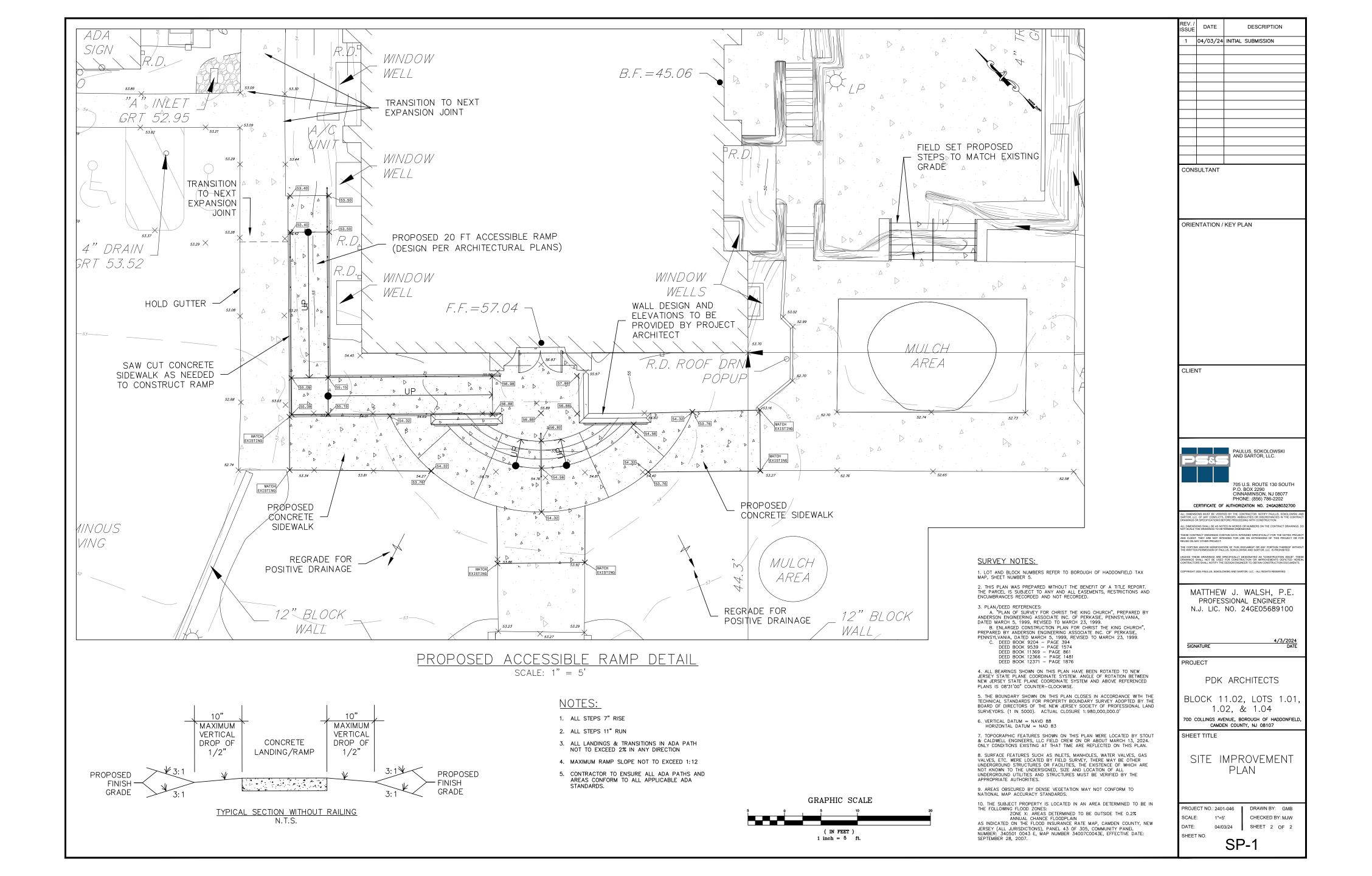
Last Year's Projects

Patio accessibility

- Current ADA ramp from Hopkins Avenue to side door replaced by steps
- New ADA ramp from main lot to main entrance of church added
- Part of patio wall behind Christ the King statue replaced by wide steps

Schedule	Funding Source
Application was submitted on Monday for borough approval	Catholic Strong





New Projects

Security improvements

- Key fobs for church and parish office buildings
- Cameras
- Backup generator

Schedule	Funding Source
This summer or fall	NJ State Grants

\$1 million offertory goal

\$852,317.73

As of April 30

Two months to go!

How can I help?

How can I help?

- Support the mission through prayer, time, and money
- Use the parish online calendar for event feedback
- Use the parish website for emailing comments to Pastoral Council
- Join a committee of the Pastoral Council
 - Liturgy
 - Faith Formation
 - Social Justice