

## Discussion Questions

- A. If you stopped participating at St. James, what would be missing in your life? What would St. James be missing from your absence?
- B. If a congregation is like a family, what family characteristics exist within St. James?
- C. Imagine if you will... It is September 2020 and you are thinking about the past year and a half. What has St. James done in that time? What did St. James do first and then move to after that? In other words, as we make room for our future, what do you want to see at St. James that is achievable in the next year and a half?
- Note: This is not an invitation to dwell in the negative about the past or present, but rather dream about the future from a positive place.
- D. Imagine if you will... It is 2024 and you are thinking about the past five years. How has St. James changed? How has St. James stayed the same?

B. If a congregation is like a family, what family characteristics exist within St. James?

All ages present and welcome, dysfunction at times but it is not disruptive of our mission, presence of love (for people and the building), outspoken people, not always easy to enter as a stranger or outsider, friendliness is often focused inward, traditional, slow to change, generous in time/talent/treasure, forgiving, mutual support, caring, community outreach, conflict avoidance, laughter, issues, talents, support, diversity, acceptance, increasing, generational, loyalty, dedication, compassion, inspirational, longevity, comforting

C. Imagine if you will... It is September 2020 and you are thinking about the past year and a half. What has St. James done in that time? What did St. James do first and then move to after that? In other words, as we make room for our future, what do you want to see at St. James that is achievable in the next year and a half?

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Building deeper community, seek ways to engage people of all ages (especially youth), stronger clearer communications, better parking, young adult ministries, more outreach (hungry, elderly, children, being away from our campus, etc.), increase pastoral care, more young families engaged and leading, new members grow in love for St. James, new members teach longer tenured members new insights, have a parish retreat, name tags, increased funding for youth and children, boost link between school and church, continued healing of the church, continue transparency

D. Imagine if you will... It is 2024 and you are thinking about the past five years. How has St. James changed? How has St. James stayed the same?

Grow in size and faith, more open, present in and to the community, change perception in community to being welcoming and inspiring, more diverse membership (race and cultural), great youth program, name tags, new community outreach, smaller vestry (downsize to 12), spiritual retreats, engage the growing downtown population, invite wounded to return to church, increased pastoral care, acceptance, safe forums for dialogue, grow the staff to meet the needs of the parish while maintaining the people as the driving force of the church, increase participation in the life of the parish by more people, broaden outreach ministries, improve communications