

Introducing...

Pastor and Parish Coordinator Serve Together

Jeremy Harris, Parish Coordinator

As the Catholic Church grapples with a shortage of priests, incumbent pastors are stretched thin and at risk of burn out. One pragmatic solution, advocated by Milwaukee-based parish consultants Fr. Tom Sweetser and Sr. Peg Bishop, is to hire a parish coordinator, whose job is to oversee the staff and all administrative functions of the parish.

St. Mark parishioner Jeremy Harris will serve on staff as our parish coordinator, on a temporary, part-time basis through October. He will support Fr. John Auer and the staff in implementing the new leadership structure and ensuring that priorities from the survey and town hall meeting are implemented in a timely fashion. Jeremy's partnership will also allow Fr. John more time to focus on

the pastoral affairs of St. Mark. In October, Jeremy's position will be filled permanently.

Jeremy and his family – wife Hannah and children Christopher, 23, Madeline, 21, and Mitchell, 20 – joined St. Mark in 2005, and Jeremy completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in 2007. He is actively involved as a Mass lector and a Christopher, bringing communion to the sick and home bound, and with the men's team coordinating Christ Renews His Parish retreats for St. Mark. Jeremy brings more than 30 years' business-management experience to the parish coordinator role, with the last 15 years managing at the executive level in several large corporations.



Message Heard Loud & Clear: Make Youth a Top Priority!

Steve Myer, Youth Minister

One of the most passionate requests from St. Mark parishioners is that more effort and resources be channeled into our youth programs. As one parishioner put it: "We cannot afford to lose our youth—they are the future Church!"

Parishioner Steve Myer has agreed to serve on staff as our part-time youth minister, through October. Steve's experience with teens and young adults spans more than 20 years. In six different parishes throughout California, he served as a volunteer leader for ministries related to the

sacrament of confirmation, teen and pre-teen programs, youth retreats and peer ministry, in which teens assume leadership roles in their youth programs. Steve helped form the first young adult program in the Santa Barbara diocese. Additionally, he spent several years counseling teenagers in youth correctional facilities.

Steve and his family – wife Cindy and their three children, ages 5, 7 and 11 – moved to Colorado four years ago. Since then, Steve has served various roles in St. Mark's youth ministry program and is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

New Parish Structure to Improve Coordination, Representation and Communication

Dan Timmerman, Parish Assessment and Renewal Coordinator

To help St. Mark navigate its new leadership structure and achieve the commission goals outlined on page 4, Dan Timmerman will serve as parish assessment and renewal (PAR) coordinator, a volunteer position. His primary role is to facilitate the Common Leadership Nights, which are monthly gatherings of all commissions, staff liaisons, and the Pastoral Council. Dan will also maintain communication with parish consultants Fr. Tom Sweetser and Sr. Peg Bishop, keeping them up to date on our progress.

Over the years, Dan has served St. Mark as a lector and greeter, a Pastoral Council member/servant leader and a

member of the Parish Assessment and Renewal Committee. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. Dan is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and manages complex projects as part of his role at software company Datria Systems. His organizational, time management and facilitation skills will be a tremendous asset to St. Mark. Dan and his wife Alice have been parishioners since 2000 and have two daughters. Emily, 23, teaches special education in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Sarah, 20, attends the University of Missouri-Columbia.

