

Best Practices for Parish Websites & Bulletins

People looking for faith communities that meet their individual needs or those of a family member with a disability will often search parish websites and bulletins posted online for a sense of welcome and intentionality

General website considerations:

- Formatted for both computer and smart phone
- Screen reader technology for visually impaired: <https://blog.hubspot.com/website/screen-reader-accessibility>
- Create a parish logo with a QR code



i.e.,  to link to the parish website. Post in bulletins, on flyers, and all social media platforms

- Use multiple descriptors in headings, i.e., Project Rachel Post-Abortion Healing Ministry instead of simply Project Rachel to increase search capability + to define the ministry for people unfamiliar with the name alone

Intentional, pastoral recommendations

Mission Statement (include on Home Page)

FAQs (make this a separate tab in your Headings)

Sacramental Prep for children and adults with disabilities (include on Faith Formation/Sacraments page)

Parish Registration Process

Mission Statement

- Create a mission statement with vision and values that includes your parish's commitment of welcome and accompaniment i.e., <https://stfrncis.org/parish-mission-statement/>
- Visit this helpful site: <https://www.dioceseofalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Parish-Mission-Statement.pdf>

FAQs

"Whether you are visiting, searching for a parish, seeking information on the Catholic Church, or have been away from the church for a long time, we warmly welcome you to _____. We offer the following "frequently asked questions" to help you feel comfortable and in hopes that you will consider making us your parish home.

- Location & Parking
- Mass and Confession times
- Accommodations provided at Mass/Confessional
- Wheelchair Accessibility
- Sacramental Prep and Faith Formation
- Meeting the pastor
- How to join the parish
- Becoming Catholic
- Ministries & Programs
- Volunteer Opportunities Parish and School)

Sacramental Prep and Faith Formation Opportunities for Children and Adults with Disabilities

"It is the desire of this parish to provide every opportunity possible for children and adults with special needs to receive their sacraments and be active members of our faith community. Our parish staff and volunteers want to work with each family to make this a reality. Please contact us so that we can meet to begin this process."

Parish Registration (see separate document "Parish Registration with Questions Regarding Accommodations")

On-line: Include a section offering dropdowns, i.e.,

"Please answer the following questions on ... otherwise skip to the next section."

- An easy way for parishes to gather specific information and for people to navigate

Paper: Add a line at the bottom of your current registration form to indicate that a separate page regarding "accommodations and accessibility needs" is available to fill out

- Include the information on one-sided paper that can be discarded if not needed

Best Practices for Bulletins

- Dedicated space in every bulletin for: •mission statement •pastor/staff contact info •parish logo/QR code
- Include the name and **purpose** of any ministry mentioned ex. RISE (Youth Ministry)
- **Define** the ministry when using an acronym i.e., Women in God's Service (WINGS)