

# St. Ann's Catholic Church

# **PRIORITY PLAN**

## 2019



SAINT ANN  
PRAY FOR US



*Awaken Faith,  
Build up our Parish Family,  
Make Intentional Disciples*



Dear parishioners and supporters of St Ann's Church:

As it says in Scripture, *"Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who causes the growth."* (1 Cor. 3:7) With that in mind, it is important to identify the challenges that we face as a parish located on the outskirts of a city. Our parish community has diminished in numbers throughout the years due to an aging parishioner base, a neighborhood that has been in transition, and an overall decline in Catholics who do not attend Mass. It is important that we take a look at where we are going in the next 3 to 5 years. A plan is in place to assist our parish in directing where to spend our time, our efforts, and our resources in order to grow our parish family. Within this plan, there are goals and milestones that will be the focus of our attention. As a parish family, we are always available to assist our neighboring parishes whenever called upon.

The overall mission of every Catholic Church is "Evangelization." In order to work in this mission field, we need parishioners who pray for our parish, who are on fire for the Lord, who see the need to be engaged in the life of the parish, who hear the call to serving the needs of others, and who desire to reach to our neighboring community to share our faith with them. Every parishioner has specific God-given gifts & talents and when we combine them together, we can accomplish our goals.

St. Ann's Parish Family has been blessed with a deep faith, a heart of compassion, and a welcoming spirit of generosity. It is precisely these gifts that will allow us to achieve the goals we set for our parish. We have a clear plan and with the grace of God we will achieve our milestones. However, there is much work to be done and it will only be accomplished with the assistance of parishioners who love their parish and want to see it thrive.

For the past five months, our Parish Priority Plan Committee has embarked on a planning process for our parish that outlines our goals and objectives for the next three years. We received input from you when we reviewed the results of the survey that was taken at the parish last November. We have carefully weighed our priorities concerning what types of ministries and activities we need to offer in order to grow our parish.

The Parish Priority Plan will be the guiding document for all decisions made at the parish. Of course, as circumstances change, adjustments may have to be made along the way. The one tenet of this document that will not change is that all our goals are connected to the person of Jesus Christ whether building up our Parish, Faith Formation, Outreach & Social Events, or Evangelization.

I am asking you to look over this document carefully so that you will know the priorities of our parish. We have already started the process of transformation and we continue to receive God's grace in abundance so that we can reach our goals. Thank you for your commitment to St. Ann's Parish Family and may we always remember that we are all called to work in the same mission field.

May God bless you and your family abundantly.

In Christ,



Rev. Albert D. Ranallo



# Our Mission

Awakened by the Divine Will of God, St. Ann's Catholic Church strives to form intentional followers of Jesus Christ. We honor St. Ann and promote her "Spirit of Belonging" by welcoming others through opportunities in faith formation; outreach & social events; and faith-sharing endeavors. Our hearts are open to embrace all people whom God sends to us to worship together in one heart and mind as a parish family.

## The Values that Guide our Community

### Faith

- Guided by the Holy Spirit and inspired by St. Ann, we are growing as Holy Disciples.
- We will share through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- We will witness to our personal relationship with Jesus Christ with all those we meet.
- We will inspire faith by providing a variety of formation opportunities so all can fully participate in the life of the parish.
- We will deepen our personal relationship with Christ through intentional times of prayer each day.

### Compassion

- We believe in the overflowing love and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that is poured over us each and every day.
- We will "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil 4:4) with a spirit of gratitude for the gift of compassion.
- We will respond to the love God has for us by never forgetting that there are those who are in need of a caring & compassionate presence.
- We will foster a spiritual environment where hearts that care will extend to others through our evangelization efforts.

### Hospitality

- We believe we encounter Christ in ourselves and every person we meet.
- We will greet and acknowledge the presence of those around us at Masses and other parish events.
- We will promote a welcoming environment to increase parishioner participation in the life of the parish.
- We will foster a "Culture of Belonging" where those in our parish family, all newcomers, all who visit our church, and all who just inquire about our parish will know of our hospitality and that we are a parish family that cares.

### Generosity

- We believe in giving to those who struggle for the basic necessities of life by sharing our God given blessings and resources.
- We will make annual commitments to time, talent and treasure to enrich our spiritual lives.
- We will hold as a high priority that every ministry leader is formed to lead with excellence.
- We will promote the prudent use of our financial resources both personally and as a parish.
- The parish will provide financial transparency.





# The Vision that Ignites Us

**Build our Parish Family • Awaken Faith • Make Intentional Disciples**

As we implement our pastoral plan at St. Ann's Church let us give thanks to God for how the Holy Spirit is working in our neighboring community and in our parish family, making us all disciples of Jesus Christ. We will ignite and strengthen the faith of those we encounter by being a welcoming parish that embraces the diversity of our community. As a parish, we will demonstrate our willingness to share our unique gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Others will witness our deepened personal relationships with Jesus Christ and recognize our firm belief that God has provided us with every blessing. St. Ann's Church will support an increase in the number of active parishioners seeking to deepen their faith and we will seek to build bridges for those in our neighboring community who are seeking a place of "Belonging" within a parish community. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, our actions will build up our parish family, awaken faith, and make intentioned disciples.



## ***Our Pastoral Priorities for 2019 to 2022***

**Priority Goal One: Build a parish family that fosters a sense of belonging.**

*"We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another." Hebrews 10:24-25*

### **Parish Family Building**

St. Ann's Church will strive to be a welcoming family with a diverse population in our neighboring community. As a family of disciples, we will strive to nurture a culture of encounter where the involved, those who are not involved and those who do not yet know our parish, find a welcoming and friendly family where faith is ignited and strengthened. In all that we do, we must break down walls that divide us, connect people with one another, and know that in a united parish family all things are possible through the grace of Jesus Christ.

**Milestone to reach 1: Create a "Hospitality Ministry" with 2 greeters at each Mass by January 1, 2020 to promote a culture of hospitality to welcome parishioners and visitors.**

**Our Intention:** Educate parishioners on how we all have a responsibility to creating a friendly and welcoming place of worship during all Liturgical celebrations. Inform parishioners of the role greeters will have at our parish.

**Action Steps:**

- Pastor will personally ask parishioners to be greeters.
- Set up a brief training program for greeters.
- Installation ceremony for greeters during Mass.



**Milestone to reach 2: Getting at least 50 parishioners united together by the means of prayer to nurture a culture of “Unity” throughout the whole parish family by January 1, 2020.**

**Our Intention:** To have a clear message of “Togetherness” and “Support” throughout our parish family.

**Action steps:**

- Continue the recitation of the Rosary before Saturday weekend Mass for the needs of the parish and for our recently deceased, sick, and home bound parishioners.
- Form a prayer team of at least 7 members to pray for the current needs of the pastor and for our evangelization efforts.
- Revitalize the prayer chain for our parish.
- Set up a “Prayer Intention Box” in the church for the prayer chain.
- “Prayer of the Faithful” each week will include to pray for all parish intentions.
- Insert in the bulletin the Pastors “Prayer Intention of the Month.”

**Milestone to reach 3: Create a “Newcomer’s Ministry” to welcome new parishioners including a “Mentor” as a way to encourage new members to get involved in the life of the parish by January 1, 2020. This Ministry may also extend out to recently registered parishioners.**

**Our Intention:** Inform parishioners of our goal to foster a “Culture of Belonging” by welcoming new parishioners and by celebrating birthdays-anniversaries- special occasions for all our parishioners at weekend Masses.

**Action Steps:**

- Send a welcoming letter - brochure to new parishioners.
- Pastor to recognize special milestones of our parishioners in the announcements (if desired by the parishioner).
- Pastor to welcome & recognize visitors at the beginning of Mass.
- Pastor to welcome new parishioners in the announcements (with permission).
- New Members to be printed in bulletin (with permission).
- Add names of those recently baptized and married to the “Prayer of the Faithful.”

**Milestone to reach 4: Increase weekend Mass participation by 25% or by 55 people from our average weekend Mass attendance by January 1, 2022.**

**Our Intention:** Ask parishioners to pray weekly for the growth of our parish and inform our parishioners of our duty to share our faith with others.

**Action Steps:**

- Continue monthly “Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.”
- Recite the St. Ann’s Prayer after the “Prayer of the Faithful.”
- Promote “Bring a Friend” to Mass bi-annually and have a reception after Mass.
- Explore the feasibility of changing Mass times.





## **Priority Goal Two: Develop/Implement Faith Formation Programs.**

*“Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love.” 2 Peter 1:5-6*

### **Faith Formation**

We are called to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ; we are called to become saints who live eternally with our Lord in heaven. As an expression of love for each person, St. Ann’s Church desires to share our greatest treasure, Jesus Christ. Conversion after encountering Christ happens as we fill our minds and hearts with Word and Sacrament, as we weigh all of our decisions against the fundamental question: Is this making me a better disciple of Jesus Christ on the path to heaven or not?

**Milestone to reach 1: Have 25 - 50 adults participating in 1-2 distinct faith formation programs by January 1, 2022.**

**Our Intention:** Educate our parishioners on the importance of growing in the knowledge of our Catholic faith to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Action Steps:**

- Hold a Bible Study for Men & Women.
- Hold Young Adult & Family Nights with fellowship activities tied to a Gospel message.
- Hold Annual Day of Reflection and/or workshops for Men & Women of the Parish.
- Hold information sessions for non-Catholics to learn about the RCIA Program.
- Have Parishioners speak at the pulpit on how God is working in their life.
- Explore the possibility of holding a “Topical Study series” after Mass.
- Hold different types of prayer services.

**Milestone to reach 2: Establish a Youth Ministry with 12 youth participating in the program by January 1, 2022.**

**Our Intention:** Establish an environment where the youth in our parish can develop and grow in faith and socially while fostering opportunities where they can express their faith through charitable works.

**Action Steps:**

- Brainstorm activities that will interest the youth in coming to social activities held at the Church.
- Have “Meet & Greet” sessions with the youth.
- Tie the message of the Gospel with Social Activities to teach the youth the importance of faith in their lives.
- Create opportunities where the youth can experience different ways of worshipping God and participating in various devotions.
- Involve the youth in charitable works connecting them with the community.





## **Priority Goal Three: Outreach and Parish Social Events.**

*“Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality...do not be haughty but associate with the lowly.” Romans 12:13, 16*

### **Outreach and Parish Social Events**

St. Ann and Our Blessed Mother both lived their lives in a spirit of fidelity and service and responded generously to God's call. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, offered His life out of love for us. Taking the model of Jesus Christ and His mother, Mary, we at St. Ann's Church desire to be generous with our time, talent and treasure knowing that everything we have belongs to God and not to us. Filled with hearts of gratitude for all that God has blessed us with, we will work to build up our families and His Church through what we have been given.

**Milestone to reach 1: To have at least 30 additional registered parishioners offer their talent in at least one parish outreach activity by January 1, 2022.**

**Our Intention:** Educate parishioners on what ministries are active in the parish and the purpose they serve. Encourage participation by communicating what the needs are in the parish.

**Action Steps:**

- Continue the food pantry.
- Establish a quarterly presentation where a designated member of each ministry can speak at the weekend Masses to explain what they do and how they serve the parish/community inviting parishioners to participate.
- Spotlight a “Ministry/Activity” each quarter in the bulletin and social media.
- With our social/fundraising events explore how to communicate the Gospel message to what we do to give it a charitable/faith-filled purpose.
- Strive to continue “Lunch in the Park” bi-monthly from May to October.
- Have a bi-annual registration drive along with updating current registration cards.
- Continue partnership with The DaVinci Center for Community Progress to provide Thanksgiving meal baskets and at Christmas to “Adopt A Child”.
- Hold an annual “Ministry Fair” one weekend after all masses where each Ministry is represented.

## **Priority Goal Four: Direct Evangelization efforts within our neighboring community.**

*“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Matt: 28-14*

Right where we live, our homes, our workplaces, our neighbors, are all good starting points to share our faith with others. Our God given gifts, talents, and our presence are ways that we are empowered to be channels of God's love and truth, revealing the person of Christ to others. Through our evangelizing efforts, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, obstacles of faith, confusion, and doubt can be erased from those we talk to leaving them open to follow the path of being an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ. Those who do not believe will believe, those who doubt will believe with clarity, those Catholics who do not go to Holy Mass will believe in going, and those who do not know about Holy Mass will know about the Mass!!!

**Milestone to Reach 1: Reach out to 50 people in the neighboring community by January 1, 2022.**

**Our Intention:** Inform our neighbors of “Who we are” and “What we offer” from a community resource and a parish family perspective.

**Action Steps:**

- Reach out to the neighboring community going door to door with a St. Ann's Parish Family Brochure and ask about the present needs in the area.
- Explore the feasibility of sending out post cards to households in the neighboring area utilizing a direct mail company to let our neighbors know who we are and what we do.
- Support outward evangelization to the neighboring community through personal invitation and social media.
- Hold training sessions on “How to Evangelize” for our parishioners.
- Have an annual “Come Home again Mass.”



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