

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH PLAN 2009-2014

INTRODUCTION

Formulated through surveys of parishioners, prayer and consultation with members of the Pastoral Council, Commissions, Vision Team and Staff, the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish Plan for 2009-2014 articulates our understanding of our community's identity and purpose.

The **Mission Statement** is an expression of why the parish exists, why God has called us to be here, and what God is calling us to do.

The **Vision Statement** is an imaginative description of what St. Mark's Parish will look like once its mission is fully realized.

The **Values Statements** reflect the community's guiding principles, the ideals that help the parish live out its mission.

The **Goals** are specific steps toward accomplishing the mission. Goals specify what the parish seeks to accomplish in the long term. **Objectives** detail what needs to be done in order to accomplish the goals.

The Christian Formation Commission, Prayer and Worship Commission, Human Concerns Commission and the Administrative Services Commission will use the objectives to develop **Action Plans** to move forward with meeting these goals.

A working document will contain specific action steps, deadlines and the responsible Commissions for each of the objectives.

At its heart, the plan represents the belief that our lives should be different because of our involvement in St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, and the world should be different because we are here.

You are encouraged to read the plan, reflect on it, and pray about how you can make it part of your involvement in St. Mark's Parish.



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mark's mission is to be a vibrant,
prayerful and welcoming Catholic
family, guided by the teaching of Jesus
Christ, committed to justice, charity,
peace, lifelong education and
faith formation

VISION STATEMENT

WHEN ST. MARK'S FULLY REALIZES ITS MISSION:

- Liturgy and prayer nourishes our faith. Our liturgy and prayer services are well prepared with full community participation.
- We continue our commitment to ongoing education and faith formation. We provide programs and opportunities for every person to learn about and actively live out their faith.
- We are aware of the different needs within our parish, the larger community and the world. As Christ challenges us, our parish promotes justice, charity and peace by reaching out to all. Every parishioner is invited to be in some aspect of service.
- We value our pastoral leadership by providing professional staff and resources to support our ministries.
- St Mark's is a community where all are invited, welcomed and embraced. St Mark's is a leader in developing relationships with other religious and civic groups in our area.
- All parishioners fully use their gifts of the Holy Spirit, enabled and aided by competent parish leadership.
- As Jesus commanded, we enthusiastically share our faith with others. Our physical facility will support all parish ministries, and our doors are open to the needs of the wider community.

VALUE STATEMENTS

OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST PARISH

WORSHIP AND PRAYER are the center of our lives expressed in the liturgy, sacraments, prayer, and music and challenges us to live as called by the Word of God.

LIFELONG EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION for every person deepens our understanding of who we are to be and how we are to live.

CHARITY, JUSTICE AND PEACE commits us to value the worth and dignity of each person and to respond with compassion and generosity to those in need.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP represents in word and action a faith that supports, inspires, comforts and challenges each parishioner.

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY commits us to be welcoming and to embrace diversity by walking together in support, encouragement, friendship and faith sharing with all people.

STEWARDSHIP recognizes that all of our gifts are from God and that means we share our time, talent and treasure with others.

EVANGELIZATION commits us to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others by the way we live our lives, by the ministries we provide and by inviting others to walk with us in our faith journey.

GOALS FOR ST. MARK'S PARISH

1. Continue to nourish the faith community through inspirational and uplifting liturgies

- a) Foster our relationship with God and each other through a rich prayer life focused on the Eucharist.
- b) Encourage active participation in all forms of parish prayer
- c) Provide on-going training and formation programs for all involved in preparing and leading prayer and liturgy

2. Provide opportunities for lifelong faith formation

- a) Design and present faith formation programs for children, youth, families and adults.
- b) Provide training for all catechetical leaders.
- c) Increase participation in the Parish School of Religion, youth and adult programs.
- d) Engage in ecumenical programs that provide parishioners the opportunity to share their faith and beliefs and to learn from other traditions.

3. Promote justice, charity and peace

- a) Conduct a needs assessment of the community, especially in areas such as social justice, health care, transportation and personal/emotional support
- b) Initiate sustained action for social ministries to meet current and future needs.
- c) Educate ourselves and the wider community on social justice issues and be an advocate for justice and peace.

4. Provide leadership in all areas of pastoral ministry

- a) Provide adequate professional staff.
- b) Provide opportunities for continuing education for professional staff.
- c) Provide technology needed to carry out staff responsibilities.

5. To be a welcoming community

- a) Design and implement strategies to be welcoming to parishioners, visitors and the community at large
- b) Embrace diversity in all parish programs and activities
- c) Increase opportunities for social activities and interactions

6. To provide opportunities to use our time, talent and treasures as given to us by the Holy Spirit

- a) Develop a plan to invite and use volunteers in various ministries
- b) Continually educate the parish on stewardship and strengthen the stewardship plan
- c) Provide training for parish leadership, volunteers and staff
- d) Educate parishioners about all parish ministries
- e) Match parishioners' unique gifts and interests with parish ministries

7. Develop and implement a realistic facilities plan for the next five years

- a) Establish a building committee to provide guidance on improving parish facilities
- b) Conduct a needs survey of staff, ministries and commissions
- c) Prepare a preliminary master plan of church property concerning long-range space and facility needs and alternatives for meeting projected needs.
- d) Submit plans for Bishop's approval and implementation