

ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC CHURCH STRATEGIC PLAN

Parish Mission: To focus on Jesus in all things, discern His will and obey by His grace.

The purpose of this plan is to establish guiding principles for St. Bartholomew Catholic Church and to identify the actions necessary to enable their implementation. It is intended that this plan be reviewed and updated each summer. The four areas of this Strategic Plan are as follows: (1) Praise and Worship, (2) Unity of the Parish Community, (3) Faith Formation and (4) Faith in Action.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

"How good to celebrate our Lord in song, how sweet to give fitting praise." Psalm 147:1

We recognize that active participation in praise and worship is essential for our spiritual growth. Our expression of wonder at God's love in our lives includes the following guiding principles. We seek:

- to grow in worship, and encourage the involvement of all members of our community in the Mass;
- to increase our understanding of and appreciation for the Liturgy; and
- to keep music as a vital part of praise & worship.

Actions:

1. Explain and adopt the upcoming changes to the Roman Missal to keep our liturgies true to the USCCB guidelines.
2. Ensure that music remains a supportive aspect of praise and worship in the Mass.

UNITY OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY

"Unity is the essence of the Church." CCC 813

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church is blessed by the diversity of our parish community. The differences exhibited through people's age, gender, culture and language beautifully show what it is to be called catholic; that is, universal. The following guiding principles enhance the unity of our parish. We seek:

- to focus on the spiritual development of all parishioners;
- to foster an appreciation for the diversity in our parish; and
- to communicate effectively with parishioners.

Actions:

1. Encourage youth and young adult involvement in parish ministries.

2. Investigate multi-cultural, not just bilingual, liturgies for special occasions.
3. Create an online, social networking presence for the parish, including website modifications.
4. Foster social gatherings and other activities to bring the community together (e.g. Pancake Breakfast, Fish Fry, Taste of St. Bart's).

FAITH FORMATION

"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

Faith is the foundation of our parish life. A measure of the strength of our faith is our participation in activities that faith produces. Principles which guide our pursuit of increased faith include the following. We seek:

- to participate fully in the Sacraments, especially through the Mass;
- to be faithful stewards of our time, talents and treasure to further the Lord's work;
- to learn about our Catholic faith through bible studies and other community activities;
- to share our faith with others; and
- to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Actions:

1. Expand adult education, focusing on the Bible and the teachings of Catholic Tradition.
2. Provide parish-wide faith renewal opportunities.
3. Implement a formal, parish-wide teaching on stewardship.
4. Educate children and parents on vocation awareness.

FAITH IN ACTION

"So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:17

We have a responsibility to live our faith in our parish, our neighborhood and beyond. The following principles exhibit the fruits of our faith. We seek:

- to encourage understanding of social justice issues; and
- to be active in service to our neighbors.

Actions:

1. Evaluate existing parish organizations, and seek to improve their effectiveness where appropriate.
2. Expand parish social justice ministries.