



# Saint Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church

Parish Bulletin Insert on March 26, 2017 (Updated)

## 2017-2021 PASTORAL PLAN

The *2017-2021 Pastoral Plan* includes six key values that characterize Saint Elizabeth as a parish community and guide all of us in living as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. They serve as a measuring rod for everything that we do and all that we strive to become as we live out ***Our Vision*** and ***Our Mission*** together.

On March 5, we reflected upon two of those values: *Nourishing a Welcoming and Inviting Parish* and *Building a Community of Grateful Stewards*. On March 19, we considered two more values: *Growing in a Christ-centered Life thru the Sacraments* and *Knowing and Practicing our Catholic Faith and Traditions*. This week, we take a closer look at the final two core values:

***Offering Compassionate Pastoral Care*** – All of us have encountered sick relatives and friends, lonely people who need someone to talk to, those unable to find employment, men and women struggling with addiction, families weighed down by conflicted relationships, and those who for whatever reasons have withdrawn from the Church. So many human hearts are aching!

In his public ministry, Jesus was particularly drawn towards people who are suffering in any way. In his own person Christ demonstrates the truth of Psalm 103: *The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love*. Our God is a compassionate God!

Extending compassionate pastoral care to others is not solely the responsibility of priests and deacons. Every disciple of Christ shares in His pastoral ministry by offering personal and spiritual support to those we encounter in everyday life. Saint Paul calls us to “put on the attitude of Christ” and to model our lives after the pattern of Christ in caring for the needs of others.

***Calling Others to Christian Discipleship*** – Have you ever felt a call to speak to another person about your faith or the power of Christ’s love and been too afraid to do so? Has your faith become solely an individual spiritual journey rather than one of evangelization - that is: sharing your great gift of faith with others? How often do you think “I wish that he or she knew Christ as I do? They would be so much happier handling the challenges of life.”

A personal invitation, supported by our own example of faith-filled and upright living, is the most powerful call to others to open their hearts to Christ and to experience His love in their lives. How we live each day as disciples of Jesus committed in service to others is a convincing witness to all whom we encounter. Through this combination of selfless service and personal invitation to others, we can expand the church of Christ in our midst, one person at a time. All of us share in the commission Jesus gave to his first disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

Don’t forget to go online to the home page of the parish website ([stelizabethparish.org](http://stelizabethparish.org)) for information about the *2017-2021 Pastoral Plan*. The plan includes a new vision, an updated mission, a set of core values for living as faithful disciples and a set of six pastoral goals. Look for additional updates in the parish bulletin over the next few months.