



Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church
2017-2021 Pastoral Plan

January 15, 2018

Our Vision

We are called by Jesus Christ to grow as a community of disciples, deepen our faith and be grateful stewards of God's gifts.

Our Mission

Together with the Lord, we are committed to nourish and grow a holy, faithful and vibrant Catholic community rooted in the Word of God and the Sacraments.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we warmly welcome everyone and invite all to enrich their lives by sharing in the fullness of our Catholic faith.

As a stewardship parish, in grateful acknowledgement of God's abundant gifts, we generously share our time, talent and treasure in service to the needs of others.

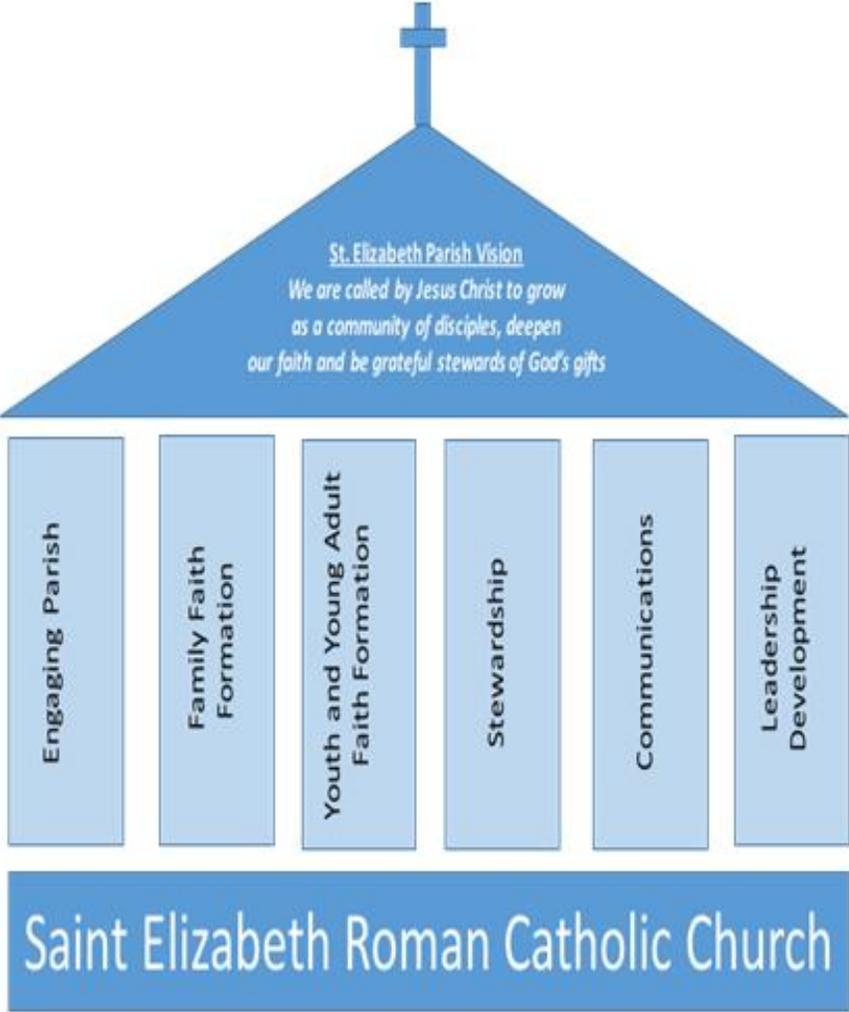
By the conviction of our words, the goodness of our deeds and the witness of our lives, we reflect the presence of Jesus living within us.

With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we strive to extend God's kingdom every day, one person at a time.

Our Values



Our Goals



2017-2021 Pastoral Goals

Goal 1: *Become a More Engaging Parish*

Be a faith-filled, inviting Catholic community that welcomes and engages all people, wherever they are in their spiritual journey.

- 1) Promote parishioners' commitment to engage and accompany one another in deepening their personal relationships with Jesus Christ and building an intimate parish community.
- 2) Expand the use of personal invitations, print and electronic vehicles to welcome, inform, invite, encourage and engage new and existing parishioners of all ages.
- 3) Establish a team that regularly examines the critical aspects of parish life to assess and enhance the engagement of parishioners in parish life and in everyday Christian living.
- 4) Develop programs for parishioners to gain a greater understanding of the Catholic Faith and to become more comfort-able in sharing their faith with others and more committed to living out their faith in daily life.

Goal 2: *Expand Family Faith Formation*

Develop opportunities at all stages of family life that enrich relationships and bring Christ into our homes.

- 1) Inspire and motivate parents to be living examples of the Catholic Faith, deepen their own faith, and promote ongoing faith formation in all aspects of their family lives.
- 2) Design and offer a family-centered catechetical formation program, complementary to the Parish School and Elementary Faith Formation Program, that empowers parents as they carry out their God-given responsibility for the faith formation of their families.
- 3) Develop programs for parents to gain a greater understanding of the Catholic Faith and to become more comfortable in sharing their faith with their children and with others.
- 4) Develop and promote small faith groups, facilitated/guided by lay leaders, in which families can comfortably share their faith with other parishioners and support each other in living out their faith within their own families and communities.

Goal 3: Strengthen Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

Offer relevant programs to nourish in youth and young adults a deeper personal relationship with Christ, with their Catholic Faith and with the parish community.

- 1) Inspire and motivate parish youth and young adults to gain a greater understanding of the Catholic Faith and to become more comfortable in sharing their faith with others and more committed to living out their faith in daily life.
- 2) Enlist and provide training for an increased number of adult and young adult stewardship volunteers to work together to provide spiritual and personal support for the children and youth of the parish.
- 3) Promote and expand opportunities for the youth and young adults of the parish to exercise responsibility and leadership, both in youth ministry activities and in other areas of parish ministry.
- 4) Ensure that the parish provides a welcoming environment and makes parish facilities readily available for a wide range of activities and programs offered to the youth and young adults of the parish.
- 5) Promote the collaboration and support of the parish community for the parish school, for the elementary faith formation program and for youth ministry groups.

Goal 4: Continue to Grow Our Stewardship Identity

Increase participation and strengthen our commitment to live a stewardship way of life by sharing God's gifts of time, talent and treasure.

- 1) Foster Christian discipleship and spirituality among parishioners so that they can deepen their personal relationship with God and their desire to serve God through their stewardship service to others.
- 2) Inspire and motivate parishioners to embrace a stewardship way of life in all aspects of their daily lives and increase their active participation in stewardship opportunities both within and outside the parish.
- 3) Develop programs that provide an ongoing formation in stewardship and foster parishioners' discernment of their individual gifts and talents, as well as their personal commitment to use their gifts in service to others.
- 4) Offer new stewardship opportunities and practical programs, both within and outside the parish, focused upon children, youth, young adults and families.

Goal 5: Enhance Parish Communications

Expand the use of communication tools and marketing strategies to reach more parishioners, promote parish activities and become a more informed and connected parish community.

- 1) Establish a Communications Committee to support the parish staff in ensuring the regular, timely and consistent presentation of information about parish life, activities and ministries across all parish communication vehicles.
- 2) Ensure the effective communication of the activities and accomplishments of the young parishioners enrolled in the parish school, elementary faith formation program and youth ministry groups to parishioners and to the community at large.
- 3) Develop an ongoing process for maintaining parish membership information in order to understand the demographics and needs of parishioners, improve communications and guide the development of parish ministries.
- 4) Evaluate the interrelationships of parish staff and ministry groups to ensure an effective coordination of parish programs and consistent communications among staff, ministry group leaders and parishioners.

Goal 6: Encourage Leadership Development

Foster leadership and develop relevant skills within our parish community, parish school and parish staff to live out the parish mission.

- 1) Establish a Committee for Leadership Development to research existing leadership programs and coordinate a parish-based lay leadership training program.
- 2) Design a comprehensive leadership training program to identify, develop and enrich the Christ-like leadership skills, talents and spiritual gifts of parishioners and parish staff.
- 3) Introduce a parish-based leadership mentoring program through which faith-filled, inspirational and effective parish leaders provide ongoing support, guidance and feedback to newly-trained leaders and newly-hired parish staff.
- 4) Ensure that the parish provides concrete opportunities for parishioners to share their leadership skills and personal gifts in service to the parish community.

Background to the 2017-2021 Pastoral Plan

As Saint Elizabeth Parish enjoys its 18th year, the Pastoral Council has developed a new pastoral plan. It is designed to guide our spiritual growth as disciples and as the Body of Christ in a highly complex and increasingly secular world.

This plan was conceived, prayed over and developed with reference to the *2011-2015 Pastoral Plan* and the original *Parish Mission Statement*. These have been updated to reflect where we stand on our parish journey, with input from interviews and surveys conducted with a cross-section of parishioners. The new pastoral plan is intended to sustain and enhance our many positive attributes and ministries in service to God and others.

The *2017-2021 Pastoral Plan* provides:

- a new vision statement for Saint Elizabeth Parish
- an updated mission statement
- a new set of core values for living as faithful disciples
- a set of six new pastoral goals & objectives

The pastoral plan builds on past accomplishments while strengthening our desire and commitment to become a more engaging, Christ-centered parish for everyone we encounter. Discipleship and stewardship remain foundational tenets for who we are and who we hope to be.

The six new pastoral goals reflect where our prayers, energies, financial and human resources are to be focused. Each goal includes a set of objectives that will guide the development of programs and initiatives at the parish.

We hope that you are excited and enriched by this pastoral plan as we move forward as a faithful stewardship parish. We pray that all our parishioners may hear Christ's call to discipleship and respond to that call with a more faith-filled Catholic life. May God continue to direct us on our journey to eternal life with Him!

Father Thomas Mullin and the Pastoral Council