



Saint Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church
Insert to the Parish Bulletin for Sunday, March 5, 2017
2017-2020 PASTORAL PLAN

The *2017-2020 Pastoral Plan* includes a new *Vision*, an updated *Mission*, a set of *Core Values* and a set of six *Pastoral Goals*. The Pastoral Plan is a guide to our continued spiritual growth as individuals and as members of the Body of Christ.

Did you notice the new banner in the church narthex? The banner lists 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. Today we take a closer look to two of those core values:

Nourishing a Welcoming and Inviting Parish – Have you ever wondered who the persons sitting next to you at Mass each week are - and who they really are? Have you ever felt alone or even ignored in a time of great personal need? Do you have neighbors that might accept and benefit from the Love of Christ and the many ministries of our parish?

Although a good number of Saint Elizabeth parishioners are already actively involved in living out their Catholic Faith within the home, at the parish, and at work or school, many other parishioners experience little sense of belonging and engagement in the parish and in Catholic life as a whole. So we all have a tremendous opportunity to nourish more welcoming and inviting parish and to enrich others’

It is far more than simply saying “hello” or “welcome”. The overall persona or attitude of each of us speaks of who we are as a parish and whether Christ’s love and the unique needs of others is at the center of our individual and collective lives. Empathetic listening and personal witness to Christ will be greatly rewarded.

Many in the world today who struggle could be aided by the Body of Christ. May we grow to know, love, accept, warmly welcome and embrace every person that we encounter at church and in our daily lives, just as Christ would.

Building a Community of Grateful Stewards -

While Saint Elizabeth has an excellent reputation of service within and outside of the Parish, the opportunities to serve Christ and His mission are everywhere. As each of our lives are filled with daily demands, sharing our gifts gratefully is often very difficult. As Christ lived and died in humble response to God our Father, so we are called to give endlessly without reward, recognition and rest.

While time is always a challenge, many of us also feel we lack the needed skills to play a greater stewardship role. New training programs and an ever-increasing number of ministries afford each of us the opportunity to respond as Jesus did. In deep gratitude, may we all find one or more ways to share our gifts with others. May we gratefully receive God’s gifts and share them abundantly with others both within the parish and in our broader communities

Take a closer look at the cover page of the weekly bulletin to reflect upon
Our Vision and Our Mission

Don't forget to go online to the home page of the parish website (stelizabethparish.org) for information about how you can offer your own input into the completion of the 2017-2020 Pastoral Plan in the weeks ahead.