



## Parish Pastoral Plan

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

In response to God's unconditional love for us, our parish purpose is to love God and neighbor. We welcome all to enrich their relationship with Jesus, experience a spiritual Epiphany, and be inspired by the Holy Spirit to become joyful disciples.

### VISION STATEMENT - *Epiphany—Where God's Love is Alive!*

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will build a vibrant faith community inspiring all to grow and live as active disciples who love, witness, worship, and serve.

### VALUES AND BELIEFS

1. **Love** – *We love because He first loved us. His love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit as we give witness to Christ's abiding, sacrificial love for us. We go forward to reflect it in our community and beyond in all that we do.*
  - We will welcome and respect each individual within our church community.
  - We will be a Christ-centered, basing all on God's call for service, community, and fellowship.
  - We will engage in formation, in order to be adequately prepared to share God's love with others.
  - We will promote and share our faith in the places where we work, socialize, and live.
  - We will work together with clergy, staff, and lay leaders to ensure a safe environment for all, especially the most vulnerable in our community.
  
2. **Witness** – *We give evidence in our daily lives and personal experiences through acts of Christian charity, faith, hope and love as inspired by the Holy Spirit to testify and believe in the Good News.*
  - We will share our spiritual journey and personal testimony with others seeking spiritual growth and reinforcement toward their faith.
  - We will use our words, actions and life experiences as examples of faith to inspire others.
  - We will make commitments to assist others who are lost or in need of faith-building.
  - By giving witness, our lives are filled with the hope of Christ and bear fruit to others by opening their hearts and minds to Christ.
  
3. **Worship** – *We believe in a lifestyle of holiness through continuous reverence to God and perpetuation of the Eucharist as Jesus commanded his apostles.*
  - We will focus our practice of worship on the worthiness of God and place God with his abundance of love and mercy as our life's priority.
  - We will embrace and celebrate the Catholic mass as a central part of our faith, listening to the gospels and receiving the Eucharist to nourish our spiritual lives.
  - We will encourage the deepening of our relationship with Christ through intentional times of personal and communal prayer each day.
  - We will receive God's grace and blessing through the on-going practices and participation in the church's sacraments.
  - We will honor and observe the liturgical seasons and holy days as sacred periods for personal reflection, prayer, sacrifice and service.

4. **Service** – *We follow the servant leadership of Jesus and direction by the Holy Spirit through acts of virtue and caring for the needs of others by sharing our gifts and faith.*
- We will share the Good News to inform and educate others, helping them (re)discover the truth of the gospel and begin(enhance) their relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - We will provide gifts of time, treasures and talent to others in answer to their calls for hope, encouragement or companionship.
  - We will create and organize parish resources (people and capabilities) to connect all in need.
  - We will make commitments of service to those in our parish and local community and be servants according to His heart.

## **PRIORITY INITIATIVES**

### **Enhance the Liturgical Life of the Parish**

To fully understand, embrace and live the richness of God’s grace through the Mass and the sacraments by developing a deeply relevant experience of God that transforms our hearts and daily life toward renewal and discipleship. This is a priority because:

- The Mass is central to our Catholic faith and overall Christian identity.
- We seek and desire to create more excitement and passion in our worship.
- We aspire to celebrate the Mass and sacraments the best way we can.
- We desire to help the parish understand the meaning of living our Catholic identity in the world.
- We believe it is imperative to empower designated leaders to be actively engaged in the vision, plan, direction, and execution of the liturgy for a fully integrated and holistic parish experience.

### **Enrich Faith Formation for All Age Groups**

To form disciples in all stages of life through Word, sacrament, mission, and personal encounter with Christ in one another. Through this personal encounter with Jesus Christ, one will have a living, growing relationship with God. This is a priority because:

- We desire to grow in our knowledge of our faith.
- We desire to encounter the living Christ through personal relationships.
- We are called to know, love, and serve God & one another, and thus, it is vital for each member of the church to be empowered to know & live their faith more fully.
- Formation experiences shape & prepare us for evangelization.
- We recognize that faith formation is a lifelong journey, and thus, are called to offer robust faith formation opportunities to members of all ages in our community.

### **Launch Epiphany Connect**

To activate a thoughtful, purposeful structure process to share God’s love most effectively with others. This living faith and community connection is responsive to Jesus’ commissioning us to love one another and make disciples of others. This is a priority because:

- We desire to create a greater sense of family with fellow parishioners.
- We desire to evangelize through service to others in our community.
- We desire to re-engage “drifting” Catholics in a meaningful way.
- We desire to lead by example, particularly for our youth.
- We desire to make a difference, showing that Christ is present within the Epiphany parish.
- We desire to engage our sister diocese and missions abroad in active and meaningful ways.
- This living faith and community connection is responsive to Jesus’ commissioning us to love one another and make disciples of others.