



St. Gaspar Family-Pastoral Priority Plan

In February of this year, our St. Gaspar Family of Parishes took a significant step forward in the Beacons of Light process by engaging in a transformative journey known as the “Next Generation Parish” initiative. Under the leadership of Fr. Tony Fortman, C.P.P.S., this marked a significant step forward in our journey toward enhancing and revitalizing our parish community.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the expertise of the Catholic Leadership Institute, an Envisioning Team was formed including the Pastor, staff and parishioners. The members include Fr. Tony Fortman, Deacon Mike Prier, Joe Hurr (Business Mgr. for Precious Blood, St. Paul and St. Rita), parishioners: Mike Stoner (Emmanuel), Leslie Iannarino (Holy Trinity), Becky Chestnut (Precious Blood), Pete and Brenda Kosir, Ralph McEldowney (St. Joseph), Julie Borger (St. Paul), Joyce Bachmann (St. Rita).

Over the past 6-7 months, our team met to create a Pastoral Priority Plan to enhance what we do and reimagine the life of our family of parishes to grow together and thrive in the future. This process is now complete, and the next phase of this initiative will include a selected Implementation Team to move forward with the parish plan. We would like to present to you, the Pastoral Priority Plan. As an “envisioning” team our first task was to develop our own team values and ground rules before attempting the purpose, vision and values for our St. Gaspar Family. Our team values are Respect, Guidance, and Accountability.

The parish plan begins with our St. Gaspar Parish Family purpose, vision, and values.

Our Purpose

As a diverse, welcoming Catholic family rooted in the Precious Blood of Jesus, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we provide spiritual direction through God’s Word and His Sacraments to guide our community to live as disciples of Jesus, who share His love and Good News.

Our Vision

We will be a vibrant, worshipping, sacrificial Catholic family who loves God and sees dignity in all humanity. As we are fed by the Eucharist and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we will grow in our relationship with Jesus and serve those in our community.

Our Values

Faith

We are a people of faith responding to God’s gift by growing spiritually and living according to His Word.

Service

We are a people of action who teach and share our faith, assist those in need, and are present within our community.

Integrity

We realize our Catholic faith is to be lived in every aspect of our lives; therefore, we will always strive to act in concert with the principles of our faith.

“When we live apart from others, it is very difficult to fight against concupiscence, the snares and temptations of the devil, and the selfishness of the world. Bombarded as we are by so many enticements, we can grow too isolated, lose our sense of reality and inner clarity, and easily succumb. **Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others.** Each community is called to create a ‘God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord.’ Sharing the word and celebrating the Eucharist together fosters fraternity and makes us a holy and missionary community. It also gives rise to authentic and shared mystical experiences”.

During the process of transition from the Envisioning to the Implementation Team, a few members of the Envisioning Team will also be included in the implementation process. The Pastoral Priority Plan developed by the Envisioning Team has four priorities, each with two goals, to be implemented over the next three years.

.....

ENCOUNTER

Develop a plan for members of our St. Gaspar Family of Parishes to discover and embrace a lifelong, loving relationship with Jesus.

Goal: By encouraging our parishioners to make habits of daily prayer, scripture study, and Eucharistic adoration, Mass attendance will increase by 10% by Advent of 2027.

Goal: By Lent of 2026, we will introduce a plan that will empower our parishioners to be Christ-like with all whom they encounter.

.....

UNITY

Foster a cohesive St. Gaspar Family of Parishes that welcomes all ages and stages of faith by extending grace and acceptance to all.

Goal: By July 2026, create a sense of belonging for all ages in a supportive, encouraging, and welcoming atmosphere by scheduling six faith and fellowship events, rotating locations throughout the year, utilizing all our family facilities.

Goal: By the end of November 2025, define and unify appropriate ministries to strengthen our Christian service and outreach to our St. Gaspar family and the community.

.....

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Provide pathways for all ages, youth to adult, to inform and educate about the Catholic faith to live our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Goal: By Advent of 2025, the St. Gaspar Family of Parishes will have a set of opportunities to facilitate lifelong faith formation and education that can be accessed by individuals, by small faith sharing groups, and by larger gatherings.

Goal: During Advent 2026, 50% of parishioners will participate in a challenge to contemplate their current level of engagement in personal faith practices and their relationship with God, leading to the setting of resolutions to deepen their faith lives.

.....

COMMUNICATION

Implement various forms of communication to keep people engaged with the St. Gaspar Family of Parishes' purpose, vision, and priorities, informing them of all opportunities available.

Goal: Have a communication loop, inclusive of information sharing with parishioners, and parishioners being able to give input to the St. Gaspar's Leadership Team by July 1, 2025.

Goal: Formalize a person-to-person process for consoling the broken-hearted, and to welcome the estranged and the newcomer, by Advent 2026.