

What is the “Amazing Parish” all about?

The Amazing Parish initiative was borne out of the conviction by two lay persons, Pat Lencioni and John Martin that the Holy Spirit was prompting them to use their expertise in business and organizational health to uplift, improve, and help parishes turn from maintenance to missionary communities. The first Amazing Parish Conference was held in Denver in August 2014 and the response from attendees including pastors and parish staff was overwhelming, confirming that The Amazing Parish model was effective. Fundamentally the Amazing Parish exists to support Pastors and their leadership teams to live Christ’s great commission to
“Go and make disciples of all nations.

The diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee has embraced this initiative to revitalize its parishes. Good Shepherd’s pastor Michael Foley, staff and members of Pastoral Council have attended a conference and have embraced the model to make missionary disciples of parishioners.

Revitalizing the Sunday Experience

“A visible evidence of a parish that is effectively implementing the building blocks is a dynamic Sunday Experience. As parish leaders, we have the responsibility and great opportunity to shape the Sunday Experience so that hungry hearts are fed not only by the Eucharist, which is the source and the summit of our faith, but also by the hymns, homilies and hospitality that a parish provides.” - AmazingParish.org

Revitalizing the Sunday Experience at Good Shepherd with:

Welcome Table
Welcome Ambassadors
Sunday Office Hours
Homily Surveys

What is the current focus of Good Shepherd's Amazing Parish leadership team?

Currently the leadership team is focusing on the first step in the process – revitalizing the Sunday Experience. Since we gather as a community on Sundays this is the opportunity to reach the greatest number of parishioners and help inspire them to become missionary disciples.

Our team is currently working on forming a **Homily Team** (see below) and on improving the **Hospitality Ministry** (see below); specifically by providing more opportunities after Sunday morning Masses for fellowship through enhancing the Coffee and Donut ministry.

Good Shepherd is forming a **Homily Team** to meet on a weekly basis, to read and reflect on the upcoming Mass readings, and pray for the clergy in preparing and proclaiming the Word of God through the homilies. The Homily Team will be comprised of interested parishioners.

The Hospitality Ministry is comprised of Sunday Mass Greeters, Ushers, Welcome Ambassadors, Coffee & Donut Fellowship Team and a New Parishioner Welcome Dinner Team.

Parishioners may serve in one or more capacity, according to their calling. Members of the Hospitality Ministry may be called on to fill in where needed to ensure all roles at a given Mass are filled. Hospitality is a vital ministry in the Church. “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.” - Heb 13:2