

Holy Family Church

PARISH TRANSFORMATION



*Our Doors
are Open Wide*

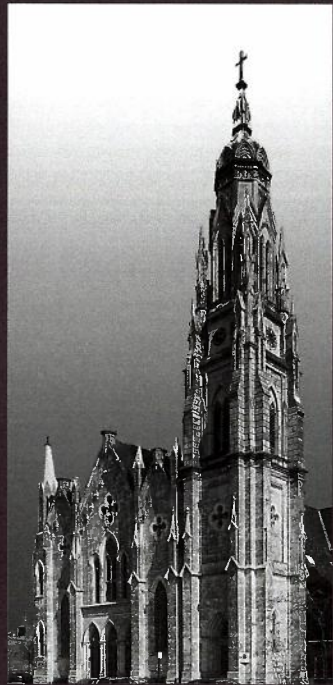
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What Is Parish Transformation?

Parish Transformation is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Strategic Pastoral Plan focused on: *renewing our commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ and establishing a strong financial base to accomplish the mission.*

Eventually, all parishes in the Archdiocese will complete the process. The ultimate goal of Parish Transformation is to strengthen parishes by creating an individual, unique pastoral vision for the future tied to a specific concrete plan.



What Has The Process Been Like At Holy Family?

A group of Holy Family parishioners volunteered to meet for 2 hours each Saturday for 12 weeks. We talked about the history of Holy Family and what was most important to us. We shared stories of how we got here, why we stayed and discussed the strengths and weaknesses as we saw them. It was enlightening to look closely at one of our greatest strengths – our diversity – and yet come to realize how many values and hopes we shared. After prayer and discernment, we chose by consensus the focus areas of **Prayer and Worship, Communion, Spiritual Stewardship and Finance.** Then working in groups to prioritize the many ideas that came forward-we created a 3 year action plan.

Highlights of Our Mission and Finance Action Plan

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Increase the knowledge of parishioners in rituals of the Liturgy

provide instructional liturgies and enrichment opportunities outside of Mass pertaining to the liturgy

Foster greater participation in Sunday liturgies and a greater understanding of its relationship to our daily life

- Enhance participation of the congregation in responses and songs
- Expand participation of children and families in the liturgy
- Invite lay parishioners to periodically give reflections during Mass
- Provide a forum for outside speakers on spirituality and social justice
- Obtain a new sound system and multimedia screen

COMMUNIO

The gracious hospitality and our mutual charity and respect for one another that gives credible witness to others of the mystery of Christ dwelling within us.

Strengthen the Spirit of Communion

- Hold a fair to inform our community about what ministries our Church is involved in and recruit new participants
- Highlight active ministries regularly in the liturgies and bulletin

Live out the Spirit of Communion

- Hold an outdoor Mass and invite community contacts
- Utilize social media in outreach
- Collaborate to bring in a speaker/panel on a human concern affecting our community
- Offer 2 to 3 service opportunities (at least one appropriate for children/families) per year accompanied by reflection

SPIRITUAL STEWARDSHIP

Increase membership

- update records of parishioners
- outreach to students in the area
- utilize community/campus newspapers for announcements/activities at Holy Family

Revitalize Hospitality Ministry

- Recruit and train new Greeters and Ushers and provide updates for all involved

Create a Minister of Care Ministry

- Establish the ministry process and train volunteers

Establish a Youth/Young Adult Ministry

- Collaborate with other parishes in the Theology on Tap series

CHURCH REVENUE

Communication

- Communicate financial position of the parish through homilies, inserts and meetings
- Foster increased giving, envelope use and reintroduce Give Central

Fundraisers

- Initiate a monetary raffle and plan other activities, concerts and a Jazz festival to raise funds

Endowments

- Encourage participation in planned giving programs
- Provide opportunities to increase financial literacy

The work is really just beginning.

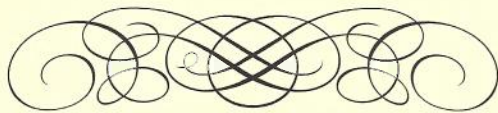
Moving forward we are committed to involving more parishioners to share their talents and energy and grow Holy Family— not only in numbers but the strength to spiritually enrich us and those in need outside our doors.

WE NEED YOU!

In order to put this plan into effect in our Parish, we need you!

Interested in getting involved in Parish Transformation?

Contact the Parish Office at (312) 492-8442
or email holyfamilytransformation@gmail.com



Summoned by the God who made us

Rich in our diversity,

Gathered in the name of Jesus,

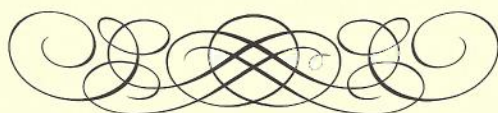
Richer still in unity.

Let us bring the gifts we offer

And, in splendid, varied ways

Sing a new church into being

One of faith and love and praise.



Mission Narrative

Holy Family Church has been the spiritual home for many different ethnic and racial groups over the years as the waves of immigrants came to Chicago. From this rich past we have now come to be blessed with a very diverse community of believers drawn from nearby neighborhoods and distant suburbs who come to participate in the liturgy. The spirit is warm and open. The worship is reverent and alive enriched by the spirit-filled music of our Gospel choir. Our doors are open wide and all are welcomed.

Founded in 1857 by Father Arnold Damen, Holy Family Church is Chicago's second oldest Catholic Church and the original Jesuit parish of the city. The Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary came in 1867 and continue to minister to this day in addition to the Sisters of other religious orders. The parish weathered many ups and downs over the years. After surviving the Chicago Fire in 1871 it grew to become the largest English speaking parish in the country in 1890. Through the early 1900s as the different immigrant groups came the transitions were not always easy. In 1960 when the nearby St. Joseph Mission for Colored People was closed schoolchildren and parishioners were invited to join Holy Family bringing many African Americans into the community. After coming close to being razed in 1990 the building survived again due to the strong spirit of its parishioners whose vigil brought forth the many prayers and donations which allowed the beautiful worship space to be restored.

We the people of Holy Family proclaim our belief in the two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and you shall love your neighbor as yourself," Matthew 22:37-39. The rich and beautiful traditions of our prayer and worship help articulate this love. They ground us and unite us and inspire us to put our faith into action and respond to the social injustices that surround us. We want to know more about the needs at our doorstep and in the broader communities we are a part of. We are committed to our active ministries... and to finding new ways to reach those who need us. We believe that collaboration with other churches and organizations around common issues can strengthen our work. Like the Church today we are challenged to go out beyond what we have done before.

Our name, Holy Family, reflects the special relationship to families, new life, growth and development that we hold as sacred. Including the children in our liturgy, educating them on the Word and the Sacraments helps bring them into our Holy Family. We seek to do more to involve our families and find ways to help them strengthen their spiritual lives at home. We aspire to touch the families in our community through our communication and witnessing. We must reach out to our youth, listen to them, and engage them as they mature. Our faith, our service and our example is powerful.

The Gospel calls us to be generous and responsible stewards. As it says in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." This means our personal gifts; our time, talent and treasure are meant to be shared. While we recognize that this sharing may take place through opportunities within the parish we also realize that our faith urges us to continue sharing in the other areas of our lives.

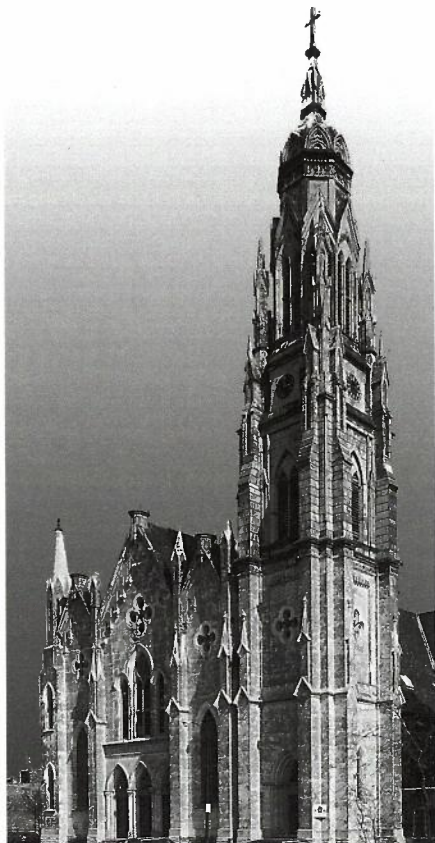
We see the role of the laity in our church as critical to our growth and future. We need to prepare ourselves to meet this challenge. Working actively with our Pastor and staff to develop a strong family of God with a clear vision... our future will unfold. When Jesus was asked "Where do you live?" His answer was "come and see." John 1: 38-39

May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.

Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

World Meeting of Families — Philadelphia 2015



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