

# Courageously Living the Gospel

## Family Ministry Report

*“As the domestic church, the family is summoned to proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of Life.”*

Evangelium Vitae  
(The Gospel of Life)  
John Paul II

### Strategies for expanding ministry to families

- Develop small family groups that meet monthly for mutual support.
- Begin Faith Formation for the family unit (not just children) during the current school year.
- Families will be asked to invite friends & neighbors not currently in our parish members to join us.

After reviewing the results of the parish wide survey and of an additional survey targeted specifically at Faith Formation families, it became clear that there is a need to grow the community of support to families. In our society, so much emphasis is placed on the individual that the family unit is under-appreciated. Life is richer when generations share, pray and work together.

The three strategies at left were chosen to meet Bishop Parkes' Vision of strengthening families at Our Lady of Grace. These strategies were submitted to the diocese for review by Bishop Parkes and we have been given approval to proceed with implementation.

Our parish has many

vibrant and active groups. How can these strategies be woven into your existing projects and prayers? How can your ministry support and nurture family life in our parish? As you consider these questions, pray about the meaning of the word “family”.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we can become a true family of believers. Our community can be the light on the hill that attracts our neighbors and friends to the love of God. Currently, the members of the Family Ministry team are Susan Salisbury and Gloria McCune. If you would like to work on these goals or share ideas, please contact Susan (see bulletin front page for email address).



*The best and surest way to learn the love of Jesus is through the family.*

Mother Teresa

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## What is Courageously Living the Gospel?

In June of 2018 Bishop Parkes announced a bold new initiative called Courageously Living the Gospel. This initiative calls on all Parishes in the Diocese of St. Petersburg to develop an individual Parish Action Plan that addresses three areas of priority: Youth Ministry, Family Ministry and Missionary Discipleship.

Our Lady of Grace has been actively working to develop the strategies needed to make Bishop Parkes' Vision a reality in our Parish. Fr. Erwin established three teams, one for each of the three priorities of the Vision.

On October 12, there will be a morning of reflection on how each of us can courageously live the Gospel in our personal life and through our ministries. Everyone is invited to attend and cooperate on bringing these strategies to life in each ministry and group at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. Watch future bulletins for details.