

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST 10 YEAR PASTORAL PLAN

Mission states who we are.

Vision states what we want to be.

Objective states why we want to do this.

Action Item states how we're going to do it.

Mission Statement

St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community is a growing community of faith which strives to live Christ's commandment "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Vision Statements

Vision Statement 1: Our Parish will be a welcoming community.

Objective 1.1: To make new members feel welcome and engaged.

Action items:

- Assure all new members get a Welcome Bag and personal visit with our Pastoral leadership
- Form a Welcome Ministry that will interact with new members at every event
- Assign mentors to new members, matching up similar ages and interests where possible
- Use greeters as part of the Welcome Ministry to greet participants at each weekend liturgical celebration and use that ministry to encourage parishioners to get to know each other better
- Develop a home-grown pictorial directory to help everyone to put a name to a face

Vision Statement 2: Our parish will be an active presence in the local community.

Objective 2.1: To seek and serve the needs in our local community and the greater Flint area.

Action items:

- Work with Holy Family's Outreach Ministry and future Grand Blanc food pantry
- Continue to support Catholic Charities with Hope in the Box, monthly luncheons for the homeless, blankets made by CCW, Reconnections, etc.

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- Implement community garden plots for those who cannot afford fresh produce and/or set up a stand for parishioners to share their bounty with the community
- Identify different Social Justice projects and implement them on a regular basis
- Set up a ministry to provide people in the community who are lonely and in need of help with friendly support (i.e. Stephen Ministry)

Objective 2.2: To make our presence known in our local communities

Action items:

- Lead an event at Good Times in Goodrich
- Sponsor something at a community event in Grand Blanc (e.g. Food Truck festival, tree lighting) -- perhaps in conjunction with Holy Family
- Take out an ad in The Citizen and write articles for The View
- Advertise community events on marquee, The Citizen, The View, and social media
- Sponsor community events such as euchre parties
- Invite the community to learn more about the Catholic faith and our community (for example, an open house, interfaith Bible study or speakers)
- Sponsor Adopt a Road or Highway showing the community that St. Mark Parish is actively trying to make Michigan clean and beautiful

Objective 2.3: To work with other faith communities on different projects

Action items:

- Work with the Goodrich United Methodist Church on Family Promise, their community clothes closet and food pantry
- Develop relationships with other faith communities in our area
- Plan and implement ecumenical events

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Objective 2.4: To use technology to make our presence known

Action items:

- Continue to livestream Masses
- Use social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube) to promote the parish and our events, including Masses
- Use social media for encouraging and educating both parishioners and non-parishioners alike with positive and informative posts
- Use short videos on social media showing all the great things going on at St. Mark and explaining why people love belonging there; this also can be a way for parishioners to get to know each other better.

Vision Statement 3: Our parish will empower and form leaders.

Objective 3.1: To provide staff and lay leaders professional development opportunities to fulfill their responsibilities and to grow spiritually.

Action items:

- Seek out conferences and continuing formation opportunities for staff and lay leaders
- Seek out and send staff and lay leaders to a spiritual retreat
- Provide an annual opportunity for team building for the parish staff
- Support music ministry by sending them to local MTM conferences

Objective 3.2: To develop strong Councils and Commissions to lead our parish family.

Action items:

- Provide adult formation material at Council and Commission meetings
- Continue to assure consistent agendas and meeting minutes for each Council and Commission meeting and a means to share their activities with all parishioners
- Continue the Ministries Fair, both in person and virtual, to recruit new and diverse members
- Host an annual gathering of all parish leaders

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- Provide annual team building opportunities within the Councils and Commissions
- Develop a handbook for future Council and Commission leaders

Vision Statement 4: Our parish will encourage members to grow in their faith and involve them in the life and mission of the parish.

Objective 4.1: To encourage regular participation in our liturgical celebrations.

Action items:

- Involve families in liturgical celebrations (e.g., greeters, lectors, servers, singers, hospitality hours, etc.)
- Add a contemporary music liturgical celebration once a month
- Hold outdoor liturgies in the summer
- Reach out via various means (i.e. phone calling tree) with a “just checking in” note encouraging participation

Objective 4.2: To identify parishioners’ gifts and talents and encourage members to participate in the various ministries of the Parish.

Action items:

- Create, publish and maintain a Ministries Directory and make it available to parishioners
- Staff a welcome desk in the Gathering Space that contains informational materials about our ministries as well as upcoming events and sign ups
- Use communications technology (i.e. Evangelus) to enable people to sign up for a ministry
- Ensure that every parishioner who signs up for a ministry is contacted
- Share personal witnesses at Mass and social media to help inspire others

Objective 4.3: To provide social activities for all parishioners.

- Continue to produce a Parish Pictorial Directory every 5 years
- Continue to have monthly breakfasts and dinners

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- Provide annual afternoon/night out for parishioners, including child care for families
- Provide events for single parishioners (widowed, divorced, never married)
- Provide events for seniors

Objective 4.4: To grow our 18 to 40-year-old demographic group of people.

Action items:

- Dialogue with these age groups to determine their needs and interests and take appropriate action
- Actively seek out these age demographics to participate in weekly liturgical celebrations
- Use our recreational field for “drop-in” activities for our 18+ demographic group

Vision Statement 5: Our parish will form members as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ through its faith formation programs.

Objective 5.1: To prepare members to participate in the sacraments in a way that transforms their lives.

Action items:

- Form small groups of those with recently baptized children to support these parents as their children’s first teachers in the faith
- Ensure that those receiving First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation have two years of preparation
- Grow our marriage preparation ministry, including a marriage mentor program
- Provide formation about vocations, including the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, and support them
- Educate and encourage members to seek out the sacraments of healing (Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation).

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Objective 5.2: To keep our youth and young adults engaged in their faith community.

Action items:

- Seek input from children and youth about their needs on an ongoing basis
- Organize annual Mission Trips for youth and young adults
- Work with other faith communities with the youth on service projects (e.g. North End Soup Kitchen, Crim water station, other projects TBD)
- Develop an “adopt-a-student” program where a family or individual prays for and communicates with a college student
- Plan ongoing events to connect youth and young adults to their faith community
- Have children and youth serve as liturgical ministers at Masses on a regular basis
- Include children and youth in parish ministry appreciation events

Objective 5.3: To develop and provide on-going adult faith formation opportunities.

Action items:

- Provide Marriage Enrichment activities semi-annually
- Provide family life enrichment/formation - how to build and nurture family relationships.
- Provide evangelization ministry events (e.g. Alpha).
- Organize parish missions periodically
- Provide ongoing Bible study programs

Vision Statement 6: Our parish will ensure that our facilities help us achieve our mission.

Objective 6.1: To continuously improve our buildings and grounds

Action items:

- Upgrade disability entrances using one of the doors on the southeast side of the church (install automatic door, widen the sidewalk, etc.)

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- Update the Sr. Joan May Parish Center (new flooring and ceiling, painted walls)
- Replace carpeting in the church
- Upgrade kitchen facilities as needs arise
- Upgrade water system (i.e. energy efficient water heater)
- Upgrade and maintain the pavilion and pole barn
- Research excavating ditches to make them easier to mow

Objective 6.2: To develop and prioritize new buildings and grounds projects and enhancements.

Action items:

- Construct a canopy leading from the church's main entrance covering the sidewalk leading to the parking lot
- Research building a playground structure for families
- Expand our WiFi and network capabilities to include the Pavilion
- Build a pathway from the parking lot to the recreation field
- Add additional storage to the Parish Center and breezeway
- Establish a process to allow parishioners to memorialize loved ones with trees, plants and garden décor

Objective 6.3: To incorporate the latest environmentally-friendly and cost-effective technology into our use of God's resources.

Action items:

- Install solar panels on Church roof
- Research an energy-efficient water heater
- Reuse, recycle and reduce resources we use in all areas of the Parish
- Seek alternate ways to lessen impact on environment through environmental sciences and sustainability programs beyond the three R's, perhaps finding a student to do a sustainability analysis for the Parish