



STCLARE
of Assisi
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Pastoral Plan

March, 2016



March 3, 2016

Where Faith and Family Come Together

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church:

In May, 2015 as St. Clare Mission approached one year of ministry to the people of Acworth, it seemed appropriate to begin preparation of a parish strategic plan to help prepare us for the mission of evangelization of the local Church in Acworth and to provide a vision for the parish for the next three to five years. The first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was held on June 5, 2015. At this time, discussion centered on a parish brand statement as well as defining parish goals and prioritizing them. The committee continued to meet through the fall of 2015 and a draft was prepared and subsequently edited for final draft.

This Pastoral Plan was developed in conjunction with our efforts to implement the pillars of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan promulgated by Archbishop Wilton Gregory in 2015:

- Knowing Our Faith
- Living Our Faith
- Sharing Our Faith
- Evolution of Our Parishes

Our Strategic Planning committee identified five key areas of importance in this order of priority:

- Adult Faith Formation
- Youth Faith Formation
- Communications
- Worship
- Stewardship

It is interesting to note that a common theme in our plan as well as the Archdiocesan Plan is the importance of faith formation, both at the adult and family level. To that end, we will strive to prioritize the importance of this in the implementation of the entire plan.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of those who participated in the formulation of this plan. I am indebted to you for your efforts. Shortly we will establish a Pastoral Advisory Council to help assess our progress in the implementation of this plan as we continue to grow our faith community in the Acworth area.

It is with deep pleasure that I present the St. Clare Pastoral Plan to you, our faithful of the parish.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark Starr
Administrator, St. Clare of Assisi

Adult Faith Formation

Goal: To engage the faithful who desire to be renewed in the faith with relevant catechesis, to re-energize those who lack a sense of living the faith to and equip them to fulfill the Great Commission.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Matt 28).

Objective 1: Develop Adult Catechesis and Discipleship Programs.

Strategies:

- ALPHA Program
- Men’s and Women’s Bible Study
- Jeff Cavins Timeline Bible series
- Create opportunities for bilingual Bible studies and classes

Objective 2: Develop Adult Catechesis for home and small group setting.

Strategies:

- Select coordinator to organize and run home study group program
- Develop small home discipleship groups using ALPHA program model
- Develop plan to serve Lakepointe Community

Objective 3: Implement model to family discipleship.

Strategies:

- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Giving tree
- Habitat for Humanity

Youth Faith Formation

Goal: Engage our teens and young adults to be disciples by fostering the total personal and spiritual growth of each person.

“But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak” (Jeremiah 1).

Objective 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the modern world.

Strategies:

- Survey young people of the parish
- Provide gathering space
- Alpha Program for youth and young adults
- Dave Ramsey’s Finance for Teens class/young adults
- Provide formation opportunities for youth ministry leaders to assist them in helping execute discipleship of youth

Objective 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

Strategies:

- Provide information and support for service opportunities
- Promote enthusiasm and commitment to the Catholic faith by example and adult participation
- Provide a YouCat (Youth Catechism) to all youth in the parish and teach them how to use it
- Provide opportunities for youth and adults to experience the larger Church community as members of the Body of Christ

Objective 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

Strategies:

- Promote family discipleship model to engage teens and youth in catechesis and spiritual growth
- Partner with parents in the development of their children’s faith formation.
- Offer two retreats each year

Communications

Goal: We strive to be a vibrant, welcoming and faith-filled community through personal relationships and the use of modern technology.

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for ‘Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world’” (Romans 10).

Objective 1: Provide timely, brief and relevant communication at weekend liturgies.

Strategies:

- Set up and staff a welcome desk at all Masses
- Have greeters stationed at all doors
- Provide good communication through announcements after Mass, bulletins and electronic technology
- Name tag Sunday

Objective 2: Foster good communication to the parish outside of weekend liturgies utilizing traditional as well as electronic media.

Strategies:

- Implement Social Communication committee
- Routine Web-page and Facebook updates
- Implement smart-phone applications
- Utilize Constant Contact or other email service
- Regular parish on-line surveys
- Develop Bilingual communication

Objective 3: Use technology to spread the Gospel message.

Strategies:

- IT and web-page coordinator
- Routine Web-page and Facebook updates
- Survey new parishioners and those outside the Church to maximize social communication media

Worship

Goal: To build a faith community called by God to a richer encounter with Living Jesus Christ through active participation in our liturgies.

“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, “To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!” (Revelation 5).

Objective 1: Foster participation in response, both spoken and sung, by the majority of the congregation assembled at every worship service held during the next liturgical year.

Strategies:

- Repeat selections of songs
- Play songs first during prelude to help people become familiar with songs
- Celebrant guides parishioners to take part in prayers
- Use technology and worship aids to accommodate bilingual Masses

Objective 2: Create a worship experience that truly expresses the faith of the Church and is made powerful through thoughtful homilies and inspiring music, thus encouraging parishioners to attend throughout the liturgical year.

Strategies:

- Keep it Catholic – keep all music selections USCCB approved
- Survey on favorite Catholic hymns
- Document survey results by Mass times

Objective 3: Ensure a timely worship experience focused on Christ and the true meaning of the Mass.

Strategies:

- Education of choir
- Select hymns relevant to Mass readings
- Ensure optimum sound system performance
- Increase choir members for more parishioner participation

Stewardship

Goal: Transform society by living and sharing the faith, recognizing our responsibilities to be good stewards of our talents and gifts knowing that all comes from God.

“Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing” (Malachi 3).

Objective 1: Increase parishioner participation in all aspects of parish life through ministry teams and small groups.

Strategies:

- Select one or two volunteers for each ministry as coordinators
- Maintain one database which includes all volunteers which will also help administration of Youth Protection per the Archdiocese
- Implement ministry scheduling software including web-site access for volunteers
- Perform regular parish surveys to get feed-back
- Improve follow up communication
- Devote one weekend to each ministry, i.e: greeters, ushers, music, set-up/tear-down, etc.

Objective 2: Increase weekly collection to \$30K and increase financial participation to 100% of all families.

Strategies:

- Regular reporting to parish of current financial status through bulletins, emails, newsletters and web-site
- Stress financial stewardship in homilies as necessary
- Family ambassadors team to make personal contact with all registered families to encourage maximum participation.
- Lay talks at Masses or other venues on blessing of stewardship
- Regular Thank You cards to donors

Objective 3: Finance Council consult with administrator and regular reporting to parish regarding parish finances.

Strategies:

- Hold monthly meetings to review parish finances, revenue and expenses
- Prepare regular finance reports for publishing and presentation to parish
- Prepare annual budgets

This Pastoral Plan is for the entire community of St. Clare of Assisi Mission. We invite you to review this document and if you have experience or would like to participate in a particular area of this plan, please contact the office and we will work to get you in touch with our coordinators of our various teams. We encourage participation of all parish members as we see the kingdom of God grow in Acworth.