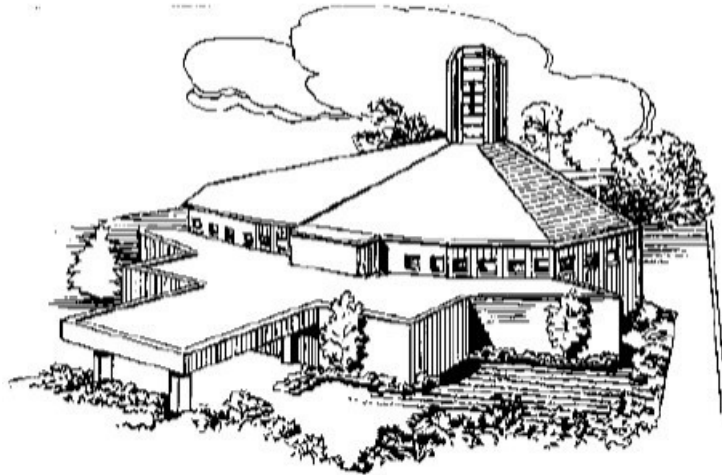


# **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

Hopewell Township  
2270 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001  
Est. June 9, 1954  
Dedicated November 8, 1987

## **Parish Pastoral Plan 2015-2018**



### **Parish Mission Statement**

In the name of the Holy Trinity and with Our Lady of Fatima as our role model, our mission is to nurture, teach and share our Catholic faith which is centered on the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

## Parish Life

*ONE BODY, ONE MISSION*

*The Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines of the Diocese of Pittsburgh*

The particularities of each parish constitute both its identity and its relationships with others. Because parishes provide the most regular contact people have with the Church, it is not surprising that there is often intense loyalty to a particular parish. Family stories about our elders building the Church or sewing the altar cloths; memories of sacramental moments – baptisms, first communions, marriages; connections to a parochial school; hours of volunteering to make festivals, bingos, dinners or special ethnic celebrations: all of these constitute the emotional ties many feel toward their parishes. Sometimes we take pastoral life for granted and forget that the exercise of quality of pastoral life is the reason for the existence of the parish.

Constitutive elements have been named and numbered in a multitude of ways, and yet the substance of pastoral life derives directly from the mission of the Church, the Mission of Christ. The needs of the flock of Christ remain consistent. The obligations of the flock of Christ remain consistent. **Pastoral life both addresses and calls forth the response to these needs.**

- **We have a deep desire for ritual, celebration, and ways to touch the God of our lives; hence the need for worship and prayer.**
- **We yearn to hear God's Word as guidance, instruction, inspiration and challenge; hence the need for catechesis and formation.**
- **We share with all our brothers and sisters a hunger for belonging, for inclusion and participation; hence the need for community.**
- **We sense the call to ministry, to justice, to the practical living out of the demands of our baptism, the Eucharist and, indeed, the Gospel itself; hence our need for service and stewardship.**

**These key areas of the life of the parish find their source and summit in the Eucharist and are to be the main focus areas for the pastoral planning efforts of the parish pastoral council. In fact, the convergence point for these four basic needs is the Eucharistic celebration.** We are called to hear God's Word, express the great prayer of thanksgiving for the Paschal Mystery and the presence of Christ as our very Food and Drink, strengthen the bonds of communion with others and accept the commission on leaving the assembly to serve one another. So interwoven are these dimensions of pastoral life, that it is impossible to separate them. **Prayer that does not lead to service is hollow, whereas service without reference to communion becomes mere activism. Pursuing Church teachings or studying the Scriptures is mere intellectual exercise if it does not impact how we worship or interact with others.**

Finally, in light of the Mission of Jesus, pastoral life must evoke a response to the needs of the human community. We do not simply consume what we hunger for, seeking consolation in prayer, fellowship in parish activities, stimulation in programs, or response to our sacramental needs. **We are the evangelizers, whether in formal processes or by the hospitality and welcome we extend to others. We are teachers of the faith in action by how we live with our families and in our neighborhoods. We witness to the power of the gospel in our workplaces and in the marketplace. We are The Church Alive!**

## Five Essential Qualities of Parish Life

“72. Relative to what constitutes a parish, there are many models reflective of the question, “What is a parish?” In my ministerial experience over the years, and even more importantly, my experience of parish, and following some considerable prayer, I focus on five essential qualities of parish life: (1) the Eucharist; (2) evangelization; (3) catechesis; (4) formation; and (5) stewardship. Permit me to reflect with you on each.” - *Most Reverend David A. Zubik, M.S. Ed., D.D. Bishop of Pittsburgh, June 2008, Pastoral Letter To The Church Of Pittsburgh, “The Church Alive”.*



### **ONE BODY, ONE MISSION**

#### ***The Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines of the Diocese of Pittsburgh***

**Eucharist:** The convergence point of all the vital elements of parish life, the source and summit of the parish’s expression of its life in Christ as the Body of Christ. Sunday Mass and Holy Eucharist are the source and summit of the life of the parish to be celebrated with the full and active participation of our parishioners

**Evangelization:** The element which encompasses any way in which the parish continues to spread the good news of Jesus and to bring others to God. Create a welcoming home where all people share the Good News of Jesus in Words and Deeds through their experiences.

**Catechesis:** The element which teaches, explains and informs parishioners of all ages in the Scripture and Tradition of the Church. Nurture a life-long desire to know God more deeply through education and community.

**Formation:** The element which promotes a lived faith that is bold, courageous and effective. Effectively engage catechetical knowledge of the Lord Jesus and move it to the heart where it becomes a lived faith that is bold and courageous.

**Stewardship:** The element which encompasses prayer of thanksgiving for the many gifts of God and the sharing of those gifts through acts of service. Support a culture of giving, grounded in thanksgiving for God’s many gifts.

## Overview of Goals

### Eucharist

**Goal:** Increase weekend Mass attendance by 10% by 2018.

*The custom of the 'weekend' has become more widespread, a weekly period of respite, spent perhaps far from home and often involving participation in cultural, political or sporting activities which are usually held on free days. This social and cultural phenomenon is by no means without its positive aspects if, while respecting true values, it can contribute to people's development and to the advancement of the life of society as a whole. All of this responds not only to the need for rest, but also to the need for celebration, which is inherent in our humanity. Unfortunately, when Sunday loses its fundamental meaning and becomes merely part of a 'weekend', it can happen that people stay locked within a horizon so limited that they can no longer see the heavens. Hence, though ready to celebrate, they are really incapable of doing so. The Disciples of Christ, however, are asked to avoid any confusion between the celebration of Sunday, which should truly be a way of keeping the Lord's Day holy, and the 'weekend', understood as a time of simple rest and relaxation. - Dies Domini, #4*

*A small fraction of registered members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish attend Sunday Mass*

*There is a serious "man-crisis" in the Catholic Church. It is widespread and serious. Unless the Church, including its bishops, priests and lay men begin to take notice and make the evangelization of Catholic men a priority, the Catholic Church in the west will decay, as more and more men abandon the Church. There can be no New Evangelization unless there is a New **Em**angelization, creating generations of Catholic men who are on fire for Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church. – ThoseCatholicMen.com*

*When children come to Mass, the parents come to Mass. Therefore it is important to work to involve children more in the Liturgy and to make your weekend Masses more of a family event. Here are some ideas that have worked successfully in parishes all around the country. – Archdiocese of St. Louis, Stewardship Education Departments*

*Children are always watching their parents and grandparents. We form our young people by the way we participate in the Mass. Children who see that their parents get to Church early to pray before Mass will want to imitate them. Children who observe parents and other adults reverently receive the Eucharist will more readily realize that the Eucharist truly is the Body and Blood of Christ. The example of parents is an essential part of preparation for receiving First Holy Communion. Children who hear from their parents how much, and why, they love Mass will be less inclined to compare Mass to television and consider it "boring." – Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, Pastoral Letter, November 20, 2011 – Solemnity of Christ the King*

## Overview of Goals

### Eucharist

**Goal:** To make the celebration of Mass the best possible experience it can be in our parish.

*The regulation of the Sacred Liturgy depends solely on the authority of the Church, which rests specifically with the Apostolic See and, according to the norms of law, with the Bishop. - Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium, n. 22 §1; cf. Code of Canon Law, can. 838 §1.*

*All liturgical celebrations are to conform in every regard to the laws, directives, and norms of the Church pertaining to such celebrations, as found in canon law, the official liturgical documents, and the rubrics for the specific rite, as well as to any norms prepared either by the Conference of Bishops or by the Diocesan Bishop. No priest or other minister shall introduce innovations not approved by the competent Church authority.*

*The Mass is the most important part of the Catholic life. It is not to be taken lightly, celebrated carelessly or subject to the whims of individuals.*

### Evangelization

**Goal:** Conduct all three levels of the ChristLife Evangelization program; Discovering Christ, Following Christ, Sharing Christ, at least twice by 2018

*ChristLife is a lay Catholic ministry established in 1995 in response to the Church's call to a new evangelization. They are an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore supported by Archbishop Lori. Our vision is to equip Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that others might come to know personally the love of God through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, becoming his followers and members of the Church. ChristLife is approved by the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.*

## Overview of Goals

### Catechesis

#### **Goal:** Conduct The Great Adventure Bible Study 2015-2018

*The Great Adventure introduces Catholics to Scripture, equipping them with a basic biblical literacy. It is supported by an advisory board of Catholic leaders, and every Great Adventure Bible study has been granted the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur, indicating that they are free from doctrinal or moral error. The Great Adventure focuses on the final form of the text, using what is often referred to as a canonical (or narrative) approach to Scripture. This is an approach emphasized in the Pontifical Biblical Commission's 1993 document The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church.*

*The Great Adventure Bible Study introduces Catholics to Scripture – see how our Faith is rooted in scripture. - Jeff Cavins, Creator & President, The Great Adventure, Director of Evangelization & Catechesis, Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis*

#### **Goal:** Support of Whole Parish Faith Formation 2015-2018

*Our curriculum-based program for grades K through 8 and their families follows the curriculum guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. All textbook and materials decisions are made jointly with the pastor. Our current text series is We Believe (Sadlier,) which is used in the classroom setting to emphasize the doctrinal elements of faith. The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies are used at home and in the classroom to enhance the Mass experience and provide lectionary-based Scripture study. Supplemental materials are incorporated to enhance the faith formation experience. \*In ALL grades we now introduce the Diocesan morality program, the Catholic Vision of Love. Grades 2 and 8 also receive additional sacramental instruction.*

*The Mission of Whole Parish Catechesis is to bring EVERYONE to the Feast...by bringing adults into the learning circles of our parish, making households of faith our goal, leading our parish to help build a society where the Gospel is the good news of peace and justice, including ALL regardless of culture, age, or disability, including our Catholic school in the equation, and by working intergenerationally, allowing the Church itself to be our curriculum.*

#### **Goal:** Support Stability of Our Lady of Fatima School

*Our Lady of Fatima School is a Catholic school of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Our school's mission, philosophy and vision are rooted in the teachings of Jesus and the Roman Catholic Church. Jesus Christ is ever-present in all our classes and instruction; the model for our faculty and staff, and the inspiration and hope for our students. We serve children in many school districts; including and not limited to Hopewell, Aliquippa, Beaver, Central Valley, South Side, Ambridge, Moon, Midland, and West Allegheny. <http://www.ourladyoffatimahopewell.org/>*

## Overview of Goals

### Formation

**Goal:** Create a common communication link for parishioners and parish ministries to serve as a unifier in the mission to create intentional disciples. 2015-2018

*Important elements in achieving goals are communication and a spirit of collaboration. Communications is a key to building an active, engaged parish. Our parish goals cannot be achieved without our parishioners help. Each parishioner must realize their individual responsibilities and obligations to the objectives and actions for each of these goals. Likewise, our parish ministries serve a leadership role and although each may have their own charter, each ministry needs to visualize their responsibilities and obligations to our parish goals. Parish communications will foster the spirit of collaboration whether it be between the parish and parishioners, parish and parish ministry, parish ministry and parish ministry, or parishioner and parishioner.*

**Goal:** Support the Network Neighborhood ministry 2015-2018

*The Neighborhood Network ministry is a social ministry intended to bring together our parish community so that each member has a sense of belonging to a beautiful and loving church family thereby deepening and strengthening our faith and love for Jesus Christ. Members of the Neighborhood Network ministry welcome new parishioners and assist new parishioners in transitioning to a new parish. Members of the Neighborhood Network ministry reach out to parishioners during those life changing moments that either invoke celebration or require comforting.*

**Goal:** Start a Pro-Life Committee

*Actively promoting a renewed respect for human life is the responsibility of every Catholic. The parish pro-life committee assists in a special way by helping to make the parish a center of life, a place where parishioners understand the issues and the importance of meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable—especially mothers and their unborn children, and those who are seriously ill or dying and their families.*

*This goal aligns with the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops PASTORAL PLAN FOR PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES: A CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF LIFE**. THE four major "pillars" that the Bishops have set forth as elements necessary for authentic Catholic pro-life efforts in America: Public Information & Education, Public Policy, Pastoral Care, and Prayer. Find more information on the USCCB web site <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/pastoral-plan-prolife-activities.cfm>*

*How is God calling you to serve the Culture of Life?*

## Overview of Goals

### Stewardship

**Goal:** Host Stewardship Sunday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of November (coinciding with the dedication of Our Lady of Fatima Church on November 8, 1987) for Our Lady of Fatima parishioners to commit to worship offering and volunteering time.  
2015-2018

*“...parishioners must accept responsibility for their parishes and contribute generously-both money and personal service-to their programs and projects. The success or failure of parish programs, the vitality of parish life or its absence, the ability or inability of a parish to render needed services to its members and the community depend upon all.” — Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response The US Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, USCCB, 1993*

**Goal:** Conduct an open Parish Financial Council meeting in cooperation with the Parish Pastoral Council to present the Our Lady of Fatima’s 2014-2015 Financial Report to Our Lady of Fatima Parishioners.

*“Parishes, too, must be, or become, true communities of faith within which this Christian way of life is learned and practiced. Sound business practice is a fundamental of good stewardship, and stewardship as it relates to church finances must include the most stringent ethical, legal and fiscal standards. That requires several things: pastors and parish staff must be open, consultative, and collegial in the conduct of affairs...” — Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response The US Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, USCCB, 1993*



## Overview of Goals

### Stewardship

**Goal:** A goal to have 25% of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners enrolled in the automatic donation by 2018.

*The online giving option is a simple, elegant solution whose time has come. There are several advantages to offering this option to churchgoers: Wide acceptance – Many people have indicated that the only checks they write are the ones for their church. They have switched to paying bills online for almost all other activities. Most of the churches that offer this option find at least 10% of the families sign up for it within the first year. The success of the program depends, to a large extent, on how it is launched and promoted. Stability in collections – Most online giving programs offer a recurring giving feature that allows online donors to schedule their church donations weekly, biweekly or monthly. Now the church has a steady inflow of funds that it can count on throughout the year. – Why Churches Should Implement Electronic Giving, Our Sunday Visitor*

**Goal:** A goal to have a 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

*Today, parishioners are expected to feel a true sense of ownership in their parish. That means looking at your parish as more than just a place where you go to Mass. You need to think of yourself as part of a parish family, be welcoming, use your gifts and talents for the good of the parish, attend parish events, support your parish financially, and most importantly pray for your parish. – Six Ways I can Make My Parish Better, Our Sunday Visitor.*

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Increase weekend Mass attendance by 10% in 2018.**

**(Eucharist)**

### Objectives:

- Promote the concept we do not go to Mass for our own personal enjoyment or fulfillment but to go to praise and thank our God who has given us many wonderful blessings and that in our busy society we must make time for Mass giving the first hours of our week to God through participation in the Eucharist.
- Support initiative's that encourage greater Mass attendance by men, families, and children.
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

### Action Items:

- The ushers are to perform a count of parishioners attending Sunday Mass (includes Saturday vigil Mass), one weekend every quarter starting June 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> weekend), Sept 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend) and Dec 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend). This will continue 2016-2018; March (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend), June (1<sup>st</sup> weekend), Sept (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend), Dec (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend).
- Promote evangelization, catechesis, formation, and stewardship.
- A pastoral letter to parish families encouraging Mass attendance during vacation - *to make time for Mass to praise and thank our God for giving us the many wonderful blessings and to return to Mass after the summer vacations.* May 2015
- During Faith Formation Sundays (Children's Mass or Family Mass), involve students in the liturgy, e.g. greeters, readers, gift bearers, music, etc.
  - Oct 2015 starting date
  - Team consists of Sister Margie, Erin Nypaver, & Marilyn Chesko
  - Aug 2015 Team meeting to discuss details of who and when (every month, every session)
- Create a Catholic Men's Fellowship Group as outlined by Catholic Men's Fellowship of Pittsburgh (see <http://www.cmf pitt.org/>)
  - Catholic Men's Fellowship (CMF) of Pittsburgh is a lay apostolate, operating and functioning in accordance with the Code of Canon Law and the blessings of the Church in Pittsburgh. The mission of CMF is a response to the call made by Pope John Paul II for the New Evangelization, particularly the reinvigoration of faith among Catholics.
  - CMF's Strategic Vision encompasses:
    - Core Values: Catholic, Brotherhood, Prayerful, Led by the Holy Spirit, Embrace the Great Commission
    - Long Term Goal: 25% participation in vibrant men's groups based at each parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh
    - Purpose: To help bring men into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Corporate Monthly Mass coordinated by Knights of Columbus St Joseph the Worker for their members.
- Corporate Monthly Mass coordinated by Christian Mothers for their members.

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Increase weekend Mass attendance by 10% in 2018.**

**(Eucharist)**

### **Action Items (continued from previous page):**

- Getting more to Mass – inviting parishioners
  - Continue to recognize birthday and anniversaries on 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend of month
    - Encourage parishioners to include Mass in their special family celebrations
  - January (Baptism of the Lord) - Invite parishioners who had a child baptized in the last year.
  - February (Valentine's Day weekend)
    - Invite all newly married (past year) and engaged couples who are planning an upcoming wedding.
    - Invite parish scouts for Scout Sunday
  - April - Invite all new parishioners (last year) – display their names.
  - May - Mother's Day
    - Invite all who are graduating high school – this requires a point of contact to identify who is graduating.
  - June – Father's Day
  - September
    - Mass for those starting back to school – blessing of backpacks
    - Mass to recognize parish volunteers
  - November (All Souls Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday)
    - Invite parishioners who lost a loved one (past year), they can bring a picture.

## Detail of Goals

<b>Jan</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>The Baptism of the Lord (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)</b> - <i>Invite parishioners who had a child baptized in the last year.</i>  <b>Catholic Schools Week (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Feb</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>Boy Scout Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>World Marriage Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Valentine's Day weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)</b> <i>Invite newly married (past year) and engaged couples who are planning an upcoming wedding.</i>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Mar</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) <i>Invite all who have registered in the parish in the last year. Include their last names on a banner or poster that is displayed</i>  <b>Girl Scout Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Quarterly Mass Attendance (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Lent)</b>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Apr</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</p>
<b>May</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>Invitation to high school graduates (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Mother's Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Pastoral Letter to promote Mass attendance</b>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Jun</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>Father's Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Quarterly Mass Attendance (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – ordinary time)</b></p>
<b>Jul</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</p>
<b>Aug</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</p>
<b>Sep</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>Mass for those starting back to school (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Grandparents Day (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Catechetical Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Quarterly Mass Attendance (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)</b>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Oct</b>	<p><b>Respect Life Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</b>  Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Nov</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>All Souls Day (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)</b> <i>Invite parishioners who lost a loved one (past year) - they can bring a picture to place around the altar that day.</i>  <b>Recognize parish volunteers (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Stewardship Sunday)</b>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>
<b>Dec</b>	<p>Recognize birthdays, anniversaries, visitors, new parishioner (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  <b>Quarterly Mass Attendance (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – advent)</b>  <b>Religious Education Mass (10AM)</b></p>

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: To make the celebration of Mass the best possible experience it can be in our parish. (Eucharist)**

### **Objectives:**

- To see the Eucharist as a priority in our parish.
- To have the courage and the hospitality to invite inactive Catholics to join us.
- To make the Eucharist the prayer that is and what Jesus intended it to be for us.

### **Action Items:**

- Ensure that a satisfactory budget is in place for this goal
- To guarantee the proper leadership is in place. Leadership Team consisting of Fr. Howard, Sister Margie, Deacon Bob, and Director of Music Erin Nypaver – leadership to meet as needed to accomplish action items.
- The priest as presider of the Eucharist is to insure that the Liturgy be celebrated properly.
- Priests and Deacons to do their very best to be prepared in preaching God’s Word that it is faithful to God’s intent and that it becomes the bridge to help God’s Word become more deeply rooted in the lives of our faithful.
- Music Ministry to provide appropriate music for the celebrations.
- Liturgical Ministry to guarantee;
  - Enhancing the environment that focuses on the various on the various liturgical seasons of the year.
  - Readers who proclaim God’s Word are prepared and do so convincingly.
  - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who share the Body and Blood of Christ not do so routinely but in a Christ-like manner.
  - those who serve at the altar understand the great witness they give to the rest of the congregation
  - ushers more clearly see their role as being inviters of stewardship
  - that greeters, who have the special talent of hospitality, truly make old comers and new comers welcome to our parish
  - Worship aids are contemporary and in good condition.
- That all of us, at the conclusion of each Mass, genuinely look for ways in which we are to live the reality we have just celebrated. To be the Church of Pittsburgh, to be “the Church Alive,” demands first and foremost that we never take for granted the Eucharist and that we always think of the priority which it ought to be in our lives.

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Conduct all three levels of the ChristLife Evangelization program; Discovering Christ, Following Christ, Sharing Christ, at least twice by 2018. (Evangelization and Stewardship)**

### Objectives:

- To have a budget necessary to foster the growth of these programs – access costs at end of 1<sup>st</sup> term
- Team of faith filled parishioners to lead and facilitate these programs
- To have 10% of those participating in the ChristLife program to volunteer in other Parish Ministries.
- Participants enrolled in the program to assume leadership roles in succeeding programs.
- Promote the formation of Intentional Disciples by encouraging 8% (300) of the parishioners to complete all three levels.
- To have 15% of the RCIA candidates participate in Discovering Christ as a continuation on their faith journey.
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

### Action items:

- **Oct – Nov 2014, Discovering Christ Team – identify key positions**  
*Main Leader, Administrator, Registrar, Evangelization Coordinator, Intercession leader, Worship Leader, Small Group Coordinator, Greeters, Dinner Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Helpers,*
- **Jan-Mar 2015, Discovering Christ Team meetings – Planning / Preparation / Training**  
**Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>,** trial run for DC Team
  - Jan 19, 2015    Feb 16, 2015
  - Jan 26, 2015    Feb 21, 2015 (retreat)
  - Feb 2, 2015    Feb 23, 2015
  - Feb 9, 2015    Mar 2, 2015
- **Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup>** parish presentation (banners installed)
- **Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>** parish presentation (donut social)
- **Mar** – presentation and registration during Mass, welcome RCIA candidates to participate
- **Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2015** - Begin “Discovering Christ” program (week after Easter)
  - April 13, 2015    May 11, 2015
  - April 20, 2015    May 16, 2015 (Retreat)
  - April 27, 2015    May 18, 2015
  - May 4, 2015    May 25, 2015
- Encourage participants enrolled in the program to assume leadership roles in succeeding programs.
- **June 2015 Discovering Christ Team meeting – review of program**

## Detail of Goals

<b>2016/2017/2018 ChristLife</b>	
<b>Jan – Mar</b>	<b>Team meetings – Planning / Preparation / Training</b>
<b>Apr – May</b>	<b>Official program</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Review of program</b>
<b>Oct – Dec</b>	<p><b>Discovering Christ, Following Christ, or Sharing Christ? – identify key positions</b>  <i>Main Leader, Administrator, Registrar, Evangelization Coordinator,                      Intercession leader, Worship Leader, Small Group Coordinator, Greeters,                      Dinner Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Helpers,                      (we will rely on the recommendations of the 2015 ChristLife Leadership Team to determine                      when these will be conducted)</i></p>

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Conduct “The Great Adventure Bible Study”**

**(Catechesis)**

**Objectives:**

- To re-discover salvation history from genesis to Jesus.
- To promote a deep transformation through interaction with God’s word and one another, to allow the Lord to transform our lives, to be drawn more intimately to our Lord in the sacraments and liturgy of the Church where they can most fully receive the gift of God’s grace in their lives.
- To foster Intimate Fellowship with others to make sure they continue this transformation in the future.
- To create Spiritual Multiplication that will raise up members to go on to discipleship
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

**Action Items:**

- Establish Team of Facilitators, at least 5 or more (we only have Julian Ranieri at this time)
- Obtain Program material – DVD and Leader/Facilitator manual
- Ensure that satisfactory resources are in place – meeting location and satisfactory budget
- Conduct parish advertisement campaign
- Aug-Mar 2014-2015      **“Matthew the King and His Kingdom”**      (24 sessions/AM/PM)
 

<i>Aug (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Sep (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Oct (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Nov (3 sessions)</i>
<i>Dec (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Jan (3 sessions)</i>	<i>Feb (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Mar (2 sessions)</i>
- Aug-Mar 2015-2016      **“Acts the spread of the Kingdom”**      (20 sessions/AM/PM)
 

<i>Aug (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Sep (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Oct (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Nov (3 sessions)</i>
<i>Dec (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Jan (3 sessions)</i>	<i>Feb (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Mar (2 sessions)</i>
- Aug-Mar 2015-2016      **identify six (6) Facilitators for AM and PM sessions:**
  - A quick Journey through the Bible
  - A journey through the Bible
  - Revelations the Kingdom yet to come
- April-May 2016      **“A quick Journey through the Bible”**      (8 sessions/AM/PM)
 

<i>April (4 sessions)</i>	<i>May (4 sessions)</i>
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- Aug-Mar 2016-2017      **“Revelations the Kingdom yet to come”**      (11 sessions/AM/PM)
 

<i>Aug (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Sep (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Oct (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Nov (3 sessions)</i>
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<b>“A journey through the Bible”</b> (24 sessions/AM/PM)			
<i>Aug (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Sep (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Oct (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Nov (3 sessions)</i>
<i>Dec (2 sessions)</i>	<i>Jan (3 sessions)</i>	<i>Feb (4 sessions)</i>	<i>Mar (2 sessions)</i>



## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Conduct "The Great Adventure Bible Study"**  
**(continued)**

**(Catechesis)**

- Aug-Mar 2017-2018      **"Matthew the King and His Kingdom"**      (24 sessions/AM/PM)  
    *Aug (2 sessions)*      *Sep (4 sessions)*      *Oct (4 sessions)*      *Nov (3 sessions)*  
    *Dec (2 sessions)*      *Jan (3 sessions)*      *Feb (4 sessions)*      *Mar (2 sessions)*

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Support for Whole Parish Faith Formation**

**(Catechesis)**

### **Objectives:**

- To offer 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade children a catholic catechesis in which the content of the faith and experience of Christian life is presented authentically and completely in both a home and parish based program. To prepare our children for sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation.
- To offer 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade young adults a comprehensive program that integrates catholic catechesis, prayer and worship, community life, justice and service, evangelization, pastoral care, leadership development.
- To offer adults a catholic catechesis that empowers them to become the primary educator of the faith in their home, encourages them to participate in their children's catechetical formation, and sacramental preparation - those who have given life to children and the gift of baptism have the duty continually to nourish it.
- Promote Regular Mass attendance through an attention getting program
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

### **Action Items:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Faith Formation
  - Coordinated and administered by Coordinator of Religious Education - Marilyn Chesko
  - Assessment and identification of resources – meeting location and satisfactory budget
  - Make certain that Catechetical Leaders are in place (with replacements)
  - Make certain that Catechetical Leaders are properly trained
    - Protecting God's Children
    - Catechetical Certifications
  - Plan and execute program for September - April
  - Conduct assessment and evaluation of the program - starting May 2015 invite Marilyn Chesko to meet with PPC.

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Support for Whole Parish Faith Formation**

**(Catechesis)**

### **Action Items (continued from previous page):**

- 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group
  - Coordinated and administered by Coordinator of Religious Education - Marilyn Chesko
  - Assessment and identification of resources – meeting location and satisfactory budget
  - Development of Missions and Vision Statement, short term and long term goals,
  - Development of youth group calendar of events
  - Make certain adult leadership team is in place (volunteer recruitment)
    - Megan McCusker
    - Ashley D'Orazio
    - Marilyn Chesko
  - Make certain adult leadership team is trained
    - Protecting God's Children
    - Introduction to youth ministry training
  - Conduct assessment and evaluation of the program - starting May 2015 invite team to meet with PPC.

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Support for Whole Parish Faith Formation**

**(Catechesis)**

**Action Items (continued from previous page):**

- Adult Faith Formation
  - Coordinated and administered by Coordinator of Religious Education - Marilyn Chesko
  - Assessment and identification of resources – meeting location and satisfactory budget
  - Make certain adult leadership team is in place (volunteer recruitment)
    - Joe Ejzak
    - Nancy Ejzak
  - Make certain adult leadership team is trained
    - Protecting God’s Children
    - Catechetical Certifications
  - Development of topic discussions and content based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - To be conducted during Faith Formation sessions for the audience of parents whose children are participating in the children’s Faith Formation (although all parishioners are welcomed)
  - Leadership needs to be more direct to parents on the need to attend these sessions, e.g. “Parents are to go with Joe and Nancy for Adult Faith Formation...”. This can also be reinforced by occasional announcements at the end of Faith Formation Sunday Mass that promotes attendance – occasionally from Joe or Nancy Ejzak.
  - Conduct assessment and evaluation of the program before (August) and after (May) each year starting May 2015 and continued through 2018 – invitation to meet with Parish Pastoral Council.

**Goal: Support Stability of Our Lady of Fatima School**

**(Catechesis)**

- Promote stewardship
- Promote participation in school fundraisers, e.g. Box Tops for education, Market Day, Spring Flower Sale, Paper Recycling, 200 Club, Anderson Candy Sale
- Promote volunteering for school events and programs

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Create a common communication link for parishioners and parish ministries to serve as a unifier in the mission to create intentional disciples. (Formation)**

### Objectives:

- To unify ministries in a common mission of creating intentional disciples
- Update Parish Web Site ([www.olof.us](http://www.olof.us)) to provide information on parish life (Eucharist, Evangelization, Catechesis, Stewardship, and Formation).
- For each parish ministry to have its own section on the parish web site ([www.olof.us](http://www.olof.us)) and email address (with parish administration privileges).
- Develop new Parish Bulletin that promotes parish activities for creating intention disciples.
- Hold quarterly meetings with key individuals from each ministry – this could be reduced to semi-annual.

### Action Items:

- Establish a leadership team to coordinate and facilitate quarterly ministry meetings that unify ministries in creating intentional disciples.
  - Kathy Testa (parish calendar of events)
  - Sister Margie (parish scheduling)
  - Deacon Bob
- Target September/October 2015 for 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting of OLOF ministries
- Parish administration and parish ministries to make frequent updates to [www.olof.us](http://www.olof.us) – stale data defeats its purpose.
- Parish administration and parish ministries to make weekly updates to parish bulletin

## **Detail of Goals**

**Goal: Support and promote the Neighborhood Network ministry**

**(Formation)**

### **Objectives**

- To bring together our parish community so that each member has a sense of belonging to a beautiful and loving church family thereby deepening and strengthening faith and love for Jesus Christ.
- To welcome new parishioners and assist new parishioners in transitioning to a new parish.
- To reach out to parishioners during those life changing moments that either invoke celebration or require comforting.
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

### **Action items:**

- Conduct assessment and evaluation of the program
- Recruit more volunteers
- Provide internal training to volunteers (a mentoring program)
- Coordinate efforts with other parish ministry leadership teams

## Detail of Goals

**Goal:** Start a Pro-Life Committee.

(Formation)

### Objectives

- To become informed on the life issues (abortion, infanticide, stem cell research, cloning, assisted suicide and euthanasia).  
<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/pastoral-plan-prolife-activities.cfm>  
<http://www.nchla.org/>  
<http://www.pacatholic.org/>
- To keep Informed on the current status of the life issues
- To inform parishioners on life issues and current status of the life issues
- To recruit volunteers interested in becoming involved in efforts to restore respect for human life and secure legal protection for the unborn.

### Action Items:

- *April 30, 2015 target date to have Pro-Life Committee in place – invite representation from other parish ministries such as Christian Mothers, Knights of Columbus, School PTG President, OLOF School Students (e.g. class presidents), Highschool students (e.g. class presidents who are members of OLOF parish), Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Evangelization Team, Nifty-Fifties, etc.*
- *Pro-Life Committee to establish short and long term goals based on the Pastoral Plan For Pro-Life Activities Of The Bishops Of The United States. Conduct quarterly meetings (or as often as needed) to accomplish short term and long term goals.*
- *September 2015, hold voter registration drive, provide parishioners with informative literature on “How to Form Your Catholic Conscience”, “In the Voting Booth – A Catholic Perspective”, and “Talking to Kids About Elections & Current Events” – all available in pamphlets through from OurSundayVisitor*
- *October 2015, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October is Respect Life Sunday, celebrate with Mass, distribute the USCCB “Respect Life” pamphlets, hold a Rosary for Life.*
- *January 2016/2017/2018, bus trip to March for Life in Washington D.C.*
- *February 2016/2017/2018, promote participation in “Love Walk for the Poor” held in Pittsburgh.*
- *2015/2016/2017/2018, Baby Bottle Fund Raiser to Help Pregnancy Centers*
- *Conduct Parish Pro-Life Night, with a host pro-life speaker, to educate parishioners on pro-life topics.*
- *Organize letter campaign to legislative representatives – local, state, federal.*
- *Organize Mass for expected mothers – see parish goal “Increase weekend Mass attendance by 10% in 2018”.*
- *Connect parish youth with Silver Ring Thing program – see <http://diopitt.org/department-youth-and-young-adult-ministry/silver-ring-thing> and [www.silverringthing.com](http://www.silverringthing.com)*

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Host Stewardship Sunday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of November (coinciding with the dedication of Our Lady of Fatima Church on November 8, 1987) for Our Lady of Fatima parishioners to commit to worship offering and volunteering time. (Stewardship)**

### Objective

- To increase the number of contributing parishioners – money and time
- 25% of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners enrolled in the automatic donation by 2018.
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

### Action Items

- May 2015 - Leadership Teams in place
  - Primary Leader/Coordinator will be Pastor and Business Manager
  - Leader/Coordinator for Pledge Cards – combination of PPC members and Support Staff
  - Leader/Coordinator for presentation during Mass will be Fr Howard and Maureen Cox with volunteers from Parish Pastoral Council.
  - Leader/Coordinator for “Ministry Fair” will be Sister Margie - to be held in Kohler Hall.
- September 2015
  - Pledge Cards ready for print  
Provide Pledge Cards to each Parishioner attending Mass - parishioners to fill out Pledge Cards during Mass to pledge worship offering and volunteering time.
  - Literature on parish ministries in action – ready for print
- October 2015
  - pledge cards printed and ready for distribution
  - Literature on parish ministries in action – printed and ready for distribution
  - Presentation for Mass completed
- November 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 “Stewardship Sunday”
- November/December 2015 - assessment and evaluation

2016/2017/2018	
May	Leadership teams in place
Sept	Pledge cards ready for print
Oct	Pledge cards printed and ready for distribution Mass presentation ready
Nov	“Stewardship Sunday”
Nov/Dec	Assessment & Evaluation



## Detail of Goals

**Goal: Conduct an open Parish Financial Council meeting in cooperation with the Parish Pastoral Council to present the Our Lady of Fatima’s 2014-2015 Financial Report to Our Lady of Fatima Parishioners. (Stewardship)**

### Objective

- To engage parishioners in “Means for Mission” of parish finances by providing a presentation of parish finances – supports National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management.
- To address misconceptions and rumors -
- To provide parishioners with a better understanding of what their role is in relationship to parish finances.
- To increase enrollment of automatic donations
- To increase parishioner interest in volunteering
- To be held on Stewardship Sunday after the 12:00pm Mass, e.g. 1:15pm to 2:00pm.
- 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018.

### Action Items

- May 2015 - Leadership Team in place  
As stewards of the parish resources, the Parish Finance Council (PFC) plays a significant role in the implementation of effective financial controls at the parish and its programs and organizations.
- Sep 2015 – handouts ready for print
  - National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management brochure A Parishioner’s Guide to UNDERSTANDING PARISH FINANCES which can be downloaded from [http://www.theleadershiproundtable.org/TLR/documents/Parishioners\\_Guide\\_to\\_Understanding\\_Parish\\_Finances.pdf](http://www.theleadershiproundtable.org/TLR/documents/Parishioners_Guide_to_Understanding_Parish_Finances.pdf)
- Oct 2015 – presentation ready, handouts printed and ready for distribution
- Nov 2015 Stewardship Sunday after the 12:00pm Mass, e.g. 1:15pm to 2:00pm.
- Nov/Dec 2015 0- assessment and evaluation

<b>2016/2017/2018</b>	
May	Leadership Team in place
Sep	Handouts ready for print
Oct	Finance presentation ready Handouts printed and ready for distribution
Nov “Stewardship Sunday”	Presentation day
Nov/Dec	Assessment & evaluation

## Detail of Goals

**Goal: A goal to have 25% of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners enrolled in the automatic donation by 2018. (Stewardship)**

### Objective

- To reduce cost associated with envelopes.
- To stabilize worship offerings during those times of the year when parishioners are visiting other parishes.

### Action Items

- Conduct quarterly reminders to parishioners from the pulpit and in bulletin – starting March 2015
  - March – June – September – November
- Include reminder with End of Year Contribution letter (for tax purposes)
- Provide forms in back of Church (envelopes)
- Include in Stewardship Sunday

**Goal: A goal to have a 10 % increase in the number of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners volunteering in one or more of the ministries by 2018. (Stewardship)**

### Objectives:

- To increase the number of parishioners volunteering for one or more ministries.
- To consciously seek parishioners for volunteers

### Action Items:

- Conduct a Ministry Fair
- Support parish goals that aim to create intentional disciples
  - Increase weekend Mass attendance
  - Conduct ChristLife Evangelization programs
  - Conduct “The Great Adventure Bible Study”
  - Support of Whole Parish Faith Formation
  - Support and promote neighborhood Network Ministry
  - Host Stewardship Sunday
  - Conduct open Parish Financial Council meeting

**Parish Pastoral Council Members**  
2014-2015

Fr. Howard

Michael Albanese      Meghan Hvizdak

Regis Domitrovich      Joe Kusnir

Mary Sue Fiscus      Regina Plutto

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02/07/2015    REV 1    DRAFT, RJD

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03/06/2015    REV 6    DRAFT, RJD

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05/12/2015    REV 8    DRAFT, RJD – converted red text to back text, edited Catholic Men’s Fellowship

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