

Becoming What We Believe and Profess

Sixteen months...that is how long it has been since I was first named administrator, now pastor, of St. Gabriel Parish. It has been a wonderful experience...a true blessing! There is a strong desire in the parish to deepen our knowledge of the faith and spiritual life, to expand the impact and outreach of our ministries, and to be bold in our plans for the future. This desire is real and tangible – I can feel it, smell it, and taste it! I am so grateful to be a part of this dynamic, growing parish.

With this in mind, let me share with you my assessment of the parish, a “State of the Parish Report” if you will...

St. Gabriel Parish is a community of faith that lives out the mission to **“Proclaim Christ and Make Disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church.”** St. Gabriel Parish is:

- a community of believers that rejoices in the Sacraments and gathers regularly to pray and celebrate the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our life;
- a community of faith that has benefited from the sacrifices made by generations before us;
- a community of faith that cares about each other and responds generously to help neighbors in need, reaching out through our Human Concerns Commission;
- a community that is growing, due to the vibrancy and energy of the people;
- a community of believers who are passionate about the education and formation of young people through exceptional Catholic schooling and desires dynamic youth ministry and religious education;
- a community of prayer that has growing participation in adult faith formation opportunities;
- a community that recognizes that God is the giver of all that we have and we respond by giving back to God through our stewardship of time, talent and treasure;
- a community that gives and helps whenever a need arises;
- a community that is on the cusp of doing something great...of being bold in declaring that our faith is so important to us that we will invest in expanding our programs and ministries;
- a community that is prudent and wise with money and also recognizes that we have outgrown our current parish site and need to expand in order to fulfill our mission as a parish community;
- a community that is called to sacrifice for generations to come as they hope to grow in their faith.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well at St. Gabriel Parish. We are being called to trust in God, and help grow the Church...here...now. How will we respond when we are called? Please pray about this throughout the fall as we give thanks to God for all that He has given us. May we strive to use our resources to build His kingdom in our corner of the world. ~ Fr. Tim Bickel