

Our Strong and Generous Giving Community's New Challenge

A Note from Fr. Bill Bruning, Pastor

In the coming days we will send out letters again asking our parishioners to commit to pledging for the upcoming calendar year. We have undertaken a **Parish Visioning** process to strengthen our engagement with committed Catholics for generations to come, although it may take five years or more to accomplish the full vision.

How is this working? Only last month, we convened over 50 parishioners to begin our parish visioning process. Our first goal is to focus on five pastoral priorities, including Conversion, Evangelization, Catholic education, Outreach to those in need, and Stewardship. Our second goal is to enhance our Communication and IT (information technology) utilization. Our parishioners and potential parishioners are accelerating their use of personal technological tools in all facets of their lives, and we need to find ways to be present in that space. Our third goal is our youth ministry, empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and draw them to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community. Our fourth goal is to strengthen the engagement of all adult men and women to actively lead and participate in the full life, fellowship, and mission of the church. Our fifth goal is to make our Mass experience so purposeful that as we build our faith we also maximize the probability that visitors to the church will return. Finally, our sixth goal is to provide the kind of facilities we will need to achieve these goals.

This process will test your support of the church as a critical part of your personal faith formation. Your gifts to the church reflect your faith journey. I encourage you to continue to deepen your relationship with Christ and His body the Church. I ask you to prayerfully consider three actions: (1) Pray to Jesus every day, asking how he can work through you to strengthen your faith in God and love your fellow men and women; (2) Reflect on your response to the pledge letters being sent this week, and; (3) Pray for the church as we undertake our visioning effort, enriching the spiritual lives of our parishioners for generations to come.

In November, we will be participating in the Archdiocese' #iGiveCatholic giving day. Our parish's theme is "A Downpayment on the Future of our Parish." Some outcomes of the visioning process can be implemented immediately. Others will take time.

I'd like to close with this. As our parish changes, we must respect our history as much as we embrace the future. To those of you who have been with us long, we are grateful. To our newer members, we are also grateful. To everyone, I am humbled to be your pastor. Please do not hesitate to call me.