



# Nativity of Our Lord Parish

## Pastoral PLAN

### MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish family of Nativity of Our Lord, proclaim that by our Baptism we have received the message of Christmas—the great love God has for all people—and proclaim that love to all we meet, and so make present the Kingdom of God on earth by service to others and by working for justice and peace.

### VISION STATEMENT

Nativity of Our Lord will be a welcoming, worshiping community of disciples, growing in faith and living the teachings of Jesus Christ.



## PARISH PRIORITIES

### Priority: *Weekend Mass Experience*

**Definition:** While the Eucharist makes a Catholic Mass unique to all other religious denominations, there are three vital elements that are critical to enhancing the overall experience: welcome, music, and hospitality.

**Rationale:** A strong Weekend Mass Experience is paramount to a thriving, connected parish. Often the only opportunity to engage a parishioner or a visitor is before, during, or after the weekend Mass. When we make the experience memorable and appealing, people are likely to return and become involved in parish activities.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Enhance the parish's image as a welcoming community
- Promote fellowship and engagement by offering more social activities following weekend Masses and other parish events
- Develop and implement a plan to expand and enhance our parish's music ministry
- Attract more people to our Weekend Mass Experience

### Priority: *Spiritual Growth*

**Definition:** The Church exists for our spiritual growth, so that we can become more like Jesus and live as the Father's sons and daughters in this life and in the next.

**Rationale:** A journey of faith is to know Jesus and His Church more deeply and to live a life as His disciple. We are called to have a personal relationship with Jesus and encounter His mercy. This relationship with the Lord is lived through the knowing and understanding of His Word, spending time with Him in prayer, encountering Him in the Sacraments, inviting others into relationship with Him, and loving and serving our neighbors in His name.

#### Desired Outcomes:

- Increase participation in all faith formation events/programs, especially among men and young adults
- Provide leadership training and development for ministry and small group faith sharing leaders so they are better equipped to help others develop a deeper relationship with Jesus
- Help parishioners embrace an attitude of missionary discipleship to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to others
- Engage more parishioners in the Sacrament of Confession



## Priority: *Unifying Youth Ministries*

**Definition:** Creating a collaborative community that supports church, school, sports, and other ministries intent on proclaiming God's love and fostering spiritual growth among the youth.

**Rationale:** Many families are choosing to send their children to Catholic school or PREP, and to have their children involved in CYO sports. This leads us to believe that families want their children exposed to the teachings of the Church, but don't necessarily feel the need to connect themselves through Mass. We need to continue to foster the spiritual growth of the children through ministries that they are a part of and help them to experience the joy of the Eucharist.

### Desired Outcomes:

- Enhance our youth ministry offerings through greater collaboration among leaders
- Implement a plan to more fully integrate the spiritual, social, and service aspects into the CYO experience
- Offer additional social activities for teens that include a spiritual component
- Increase participation in Youth Ministry



## VALUES AND BELIEFS

### Parish Value: *Welcoming*

**Definition:** We invite others to partake in fellowship and friendship through worship and shared parish activities.

#### Examples of ways we live out this value:

- We will be a welcoming, worshipping community where all feel at home in our church.
- We will extend hospitality to those who come to our parish so that they feel like they are a part of a larger community.

### Parish Value: *Faithfulness*

**Definition:** We are guided by Christ in all our behaviors and decision-making, so that our church will bear fruit and glorify God.

#### Examples of ways we live out this value:

- We will persevere in living the Gospel message despite the challenges and temptations that exist within world.
- We will actively seek ways to grow in our faith.

### Parish Value: *Discipleship*

**Definition:** We strive to help parishioners embrace their Baptismal call to follow Jesus and to serve as steadfast witnesses of His love in the world.

#### Examples of ways that we will live out this value:

- We will develop a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus and invite others to do the same.
- We will actively seek out ways to serve and support our community.
- We will participate in the sacramental life of the Church and engage in faith formation activities.
- We will invite others to participate in the life of the parish.

### Envisioning Team Members:

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