



Most Pure Heart of Mary

Catholic Church

*We strive to imitate the heart of our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, by:
Loving God with all our hearts,
Loving our neighbor as ourselves,
Bringing Christ to others*

Dear Parishioners



Did you know that Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish now has a mission, vision, values, and strategic planning

goals? Sounds impressive, doesn't it! These things, which are all shared in the pages following, tell us who we are and what we are about. So often the parish, like each one of us, follows the "tyranny of the urgent," in other words, we do whatever things pop up as urgent each day and never seem to get much beyond that. I'm guessing we all can relate to that. However, our mission/vision/values/plan gives us a way out of this dilemma to make sure we are faithful to what God wants us to do and to achieve the bigger goals

that aren't always urgent, but are critically important to our mission. Please take some time to read over these things in this newsletter.

I will comment on them as well so you know where they came from. Remember we have had our new mission statement for over a year now, and we hear it recited before Mass (have you memorized it?). A mission statement has to be continually thought about and put into action or else it is worthless. Before we do anything as a parish, we should recall the mission statement and think if what we are about to do fits it. We could simply ask, "Does this help us to love God more?" or "Does this help us love our neighbor, or how could we do that better?" or "How does this bring Christ to others, or how does this spread the faith?" If anything we do does not fit into these things, I really have trouble seeing why we are doing it.

Next, consider our new vision. It's not really all that new either. It is borrowed from Pope

Francis as he wrote in the 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (English: Joy of the Gospel). We had a parish mission sometime after that when Fr. Andrew Strobl, who was the director of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese at the time, reflected on paragraph 24, which is exactly what we have borrowed for our vision. It is a beautiful vision which greatly moves me personally (and challenges me). I have shared it to different groups on numerous occasions, and I convinced the pastoral council to agree with me it should be our vision. That means, we want to work to make the parish look like this in the future. Please take time especially to read and ponder the vision. If you want to understand me as your pastor and my goals, read this. I don't always live up to it, but it is definitely something God has placed on my heart.

Third, consider our parish values. The pastoral council helped me hammer these out just recently as the last part of the

Volunteer Spotlight

*“Stewardship,
is the grateful response
of a Christian disciple
who recognizes
and receives God’s gifts
and shares these gifts
in love of God and neighbor.”*

Stewardship of facilities here at Most Pure Heart of Mary is a HUGE job. At this time we have the church building, rectory & garage, convent & garage, parish center, childcare center, school & gym, St. Vincent’s building & garage with shed as well as a shed that the Boy Scouts use. That doesn’t even include all of the sidewalks, parking lots, outdoor lighting, lawns and sports fields. To maintain and clean all of this property we have one full-time maintenance coordinator, 2 full-time custodians and 3 part-time custodians.

When the parish embarked on the journey to create our strategic plan we knew that our aging facilities would be a large portion of that plan. We had two parishioners that stepped up to take on chairing this portion of the plan. This is a large portion of the plan, and they are still in the process of coordinating and completing in depth research. This dynamic duo is Carrie Jo Gros and Rich Connell. Carrie Jo has a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts Degree with an emphasis in painting from Washburn University and Rich is the Director of Facility Services at Washburn University. While Carrie Jo has outgoing personality, Rich has a more subdued personality that

likes to work on a more one-on-one basis.

Carrie Jo and her husband Dennis have two young daughters. Amelia is in 2nd grade at MPH M School and Lillian attends the Krische Child Development Center. Carrie Jo has been the president of Women’s Fellowship, has been active in the adult choir and is one of the mom’s that teaches Art Image for the school as well as many other projects that have come up at the parish including the design and color scheme of the Adoration Chapel.

Rich and his wife Tizz have a blended family with 8 children. They have only been attending MPH M for a short time they have



Carrie Jo and Leon Roberts from the Archdiocese on the roof of St. Vincent’s.

jumped right in to parish life.

Steve Ehart, Consultant with the Office of Mission Strategy at the Archdiocese, commented that the facilities portion of the strategic plan is one of the most comprehensive and well designed plans he has seen. He was greatly impressed with the work this team completed in a very short period of time.

Rich and Carrie Jo worked with Jim Johnson, Mal Robinson, Dick Hylton and Kevin Tucker to complete a massive and well

thought out strategic plan for our facilities. They have met with representatives from the Archdiocese, toured every building on the grounds, walked all of the parking lots and sidewalks, looked in many creepy dark holes and checked out the roof tops.

A new Facilities Ministry has been put together along with four task forces that are evaluating all aspects of the rectory, St. Vincent’s, technology needs for the entire parish as well as a Facilities Usage Team to research how our facilities are used, when they are used the most as well as what works well and what needs we have that may need some work. Once all of the research has been completed it will all be compiled by the Facilities Ministry and options on how to proceed will be presented to the parish.

As you can see, there are many moving parts at work and Carrie Jo and Rich have become masters at juggling these projects. While Rich, Carrie Jo, Fr. Greg and any number of parishioners notice that there are many items that need to be done to make our parish functional, beautiful and hospitable we also need to make sure that we are doing so in a wise manner to best utilize our efforts and funding.

The Facilities Ministry is taking all of the compiled data and combining it with the items that we know need to be worked on and prioritizing them into a functional working plan. This takes time. We have a target of late spring to mid summer for completion of the proposals for parish input.

Thanks, and may God bless you!



Most Pure Heart of Mary

Catholic Church

Mission

We strive to imitate the heart of our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, by:

- † Loving God with all our hearts,
- † Loving our neighbor as ourselves,
- † Bringing Christ to others

Vision

We strive to be a parish that fulfills Pope Francis' vision in *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) paragraph #24.

The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.

Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church:

- knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy....
- gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.
- is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be....
- is always concerned with fruit, because the Lord wants her to be fruitful....
- is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always. It celebrates every small victory, every step forward in the work of evangelization. Evangelization with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy....

Values

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church...

1. **One** - The Church is one: she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, is born of one Baptism, forms only one Body, is given life by the one Spirit, for the sake of one hope (cf. Eph 4:3–5), at whose fulfillment all divisions will be overcome. (CCC 866)
 2. **Holy** - The Church is holy: the Most Holy God is her author; Christ, her bridegroom, gave himself up to make her holy; the Spirit of holiness gives her life. Since she still includes sinners, she is “the sinless one made up of sinners.” Her holiness shines in the saints; in Mary she is already all-holy. (CCC 867)
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3. **Catholic** - The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation. She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times. She is “missionary of her very nature” (AG 2). (CCC 868)
4. **Apostolic** - The Church is apostolic. She is built on a lasting foundation: “the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Rev 21:14). She is indestructible (cf. Mt 16:18). She is upheld infallibly in the truth: Christ governs her through Peter and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops. (CCC 869)

Plan of Action

GOAL #1 – *to provide focus and improvement on 5-Pastoral Priorities of the Archdiocese through purposeful planning and execution.*

Conversion

1. Develop, implement and strengthen a more intentional Prayer Ministry by teaching the laity the different forms of prayer and by collecting and praying their prayer intentions.
2. Increase awareness, interest and participation in perpetual adoration.
3. Create an annual parish mission to help foster and strengthen converted hearts that is well publicized and attended.
4. Coordinate with the Minister to the Aging to develop, coordinate and implement a Senior Retreat Day to address specific areas of spirituality and life issues for our retired parishioners.
5. Conduct and optimize Topeka Region Mass analysis to ascertain the optimal weekday Mass times for the parish.
6. Conduct and optimize Topeka Region confession analysis to ascertain the optimal reconciliation times for the parish.
7. Raise awareness of Spiritual Mentorship in the parish.

Evangelization

1. Create an Evangelization & Hospitality Ministry to retain and make new disciples for Jesus focusing on a welcoming environment for strangers, finding and addressing the needs of returning Catholics, outreach to the unchurched.
2. Develop and implement ways to equip individual parishioners to be evangelizers.
3. Collaborate with and coordinate Credo events in the parish.
4. Promote and extend participation in Christ Renews His Parish and ChristLife.

All Forms of Catholic Education

1. Increase awareness and importance about Catholic education to parishioners and the broader community.
2. Working with MPHM School administration develop, improve and implement parishioner awareness of MPHM School through regular and effective communications as to move us closer to our target goal to maximize facilities (450 students).
3. Working with Hayden High School administration - develop, improve and implement parishioner awareness of Hayden High School through regular and effective

communications as to increase support by parishioners as well as keeping graduating MPHM 8th graders enrollment in Hayden High School to at least 90%.

4. Working with the MPHM Parish DRE - develop, improve and implement parishioner awareness of the MPHM Religious Education program and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through regular and effective communications to capture at least 75% of youth not in MPHM School or actively homeschooled.
5. Working with the MPHM Parish DRE and/or Adult Education Coordinator - develop, improve and implement parishioner awareness through regular and effective communications for MPHM Adult Religious Education programs to increase support by parishioners as well as increasing enrollment and retention of adults in parish offered formation studies to at least 20 individuals in each offered study.
6. Identify and personally contact each family with children not attending MPHM School, Religious Education Program, Hayden High School or those being Homeschooled to raise awareness of the importance of Catholic discipleship and identity.

Outreach to Those in Need

1. Create a Social Concerns Ministry to oversee the parish's response to the needs of the poor and most vulnerable among us.
2. Coordinate with Minister to the Aging what the needs of our aging parishioners are and how the parish can serve them better.
3. Identify and establish a partnership to serve the handicapped in our area.
4. Provide food and goods for those in need.

Stewardship

1. Develop and implement ways to engage parish households in the Annual Stewardship Renewal Appeal to increase participation and contributions.
2. Increase 2017 annual parish pledges to meet and/or exceed parish operating expenses.
3. Research, develop and implement ways to increase tithing and planned giving among parishioners.
4. Develop and implement greater awareness within the parish on the spirituality of stewardship.
5. Construct how to communicate more effectively between the parish leadership and parishioners.
6. Increase volunteerism and use of talents within the parish.
7. In stewardship communications, strongly utilize the newly developed Prayer Ministry.

GOAL #2 - to enrich the Sunday Experience for all parishioners and guests in order to provide them growth as disciples of Jesus or to help make them disciples for Jesus.

The Sunday Experience

1. Analyze completed Parish Surveys to determine next steps needed to improve the Sunday Experience for parishioners and guests.
 2. Submit Parish Survey results and/or recommendations that are relevant to the Facilities Ministry to help provide parishioner insights into their facility plans to improve the Sunday experience.
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3. Submit Parish Survey results and/or recommendations that are relevant to the Evangelization & Hospitality Team to help provide parishioner insights into their plans to provide a welcoming and hospitable experience to all attending at Most Pure Heart of Mary.

GOAL #3 - *to provide for parish vitality through the development and implementation of a parish budget that is designed to integrate stewardship, development, facility needs and expense management with transparency and open communication to parishioners.*

Financial

1. Increase fiscal transparency to parishioners.
2. Enhance the financial communications to include some level of the “why” of parish finances.
3. At least annually, make a verbal financial “ask” to the parish.
4. Complete the next fiscal budget before the end of the fiscal year.
5. Rationalize and optimize Topeka Region school tuition costs.

GOAL #4 - *to strengthen and enrich our families and youth.*

Family & Youth Ministry

1. Create a Family & Youth Ministry to oversee the parish’s needs and response to the needs of families and youth in our parish.
2. Invite, encourage and connect every parishioner with a smaller faith-sharing group in the parish.
3. Research, develop and implement ways to promote and strengthen families.
4. Work with parish DRE to build a strong youth ministry program that fosters growth in Catholic discipleship and identity.
5. Research, develop and implement quality childcare program during parish liturgies and events for households with young children.

GOAL #5 - *to provide well-maintained facilities for the parish mission and ministries through a continual maintenance awareness and stewardship of facilities effort.*

Facilities

1. Implement a Facilities Ministry to replace the Materialities Committee. (The position of Maintenance Coordinator should be a member of the Ministry and serve as the staff liaison person.)
 2. Establish a Facility Usage Task Force, comprised of 4-6 parishioners who will address the aesthetics, usability and hospitality aspects of our facilities.
 3. Form a task force to address and assess the current rectory, evaluate long-term usage and determine the course of action for this space.
 4. Form a task force to address and assess St Vincent’s, evaluate long-term usage and determine the course of action for this building.
 5. Evaluate all potential safety risks and create a plan to ensure the safety of staff, parishioners, school attendees, and visitors as well as material parish assets. Consider separate, long-range technology plan for the parish.
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Penance Services & Christmas Season Schedules

Communal Penance Service
Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Monday, Dec. 5th; 7:00 pm

Communal Penance Service
Mother Teresa
 Sunday, Dec. 11th; 7:00 pm

Communal Penance Service
Sacred Heart
 Monday, Dec. 12th; 7:00 pm

Communal Penance Service
Christ the King
 Tuesday, Dec. 13th; 7:00 pm

Communal Penance Service
St. Matthew's
 Wednesday, Dec. 14th; 7:00 pm

Communal Penance Service
Mater Dei - Holy Name site
 Thursday, Dec. 15th; 7:00 pm

Communal Penance Service
Most Pure Heart of Mary
 Saturday, Dec. 17th; 9:30 am

Holy Day Vigil Mass
The Nativity of our Lord
 Saturday, Dec. 24; 4:00 pm

Holy Day Vigil Mass
The Nativity of our Lord
 Saturday, Dec. 24; 6:00 pm

Holy Day Mass
The Nativity of our Lord
 Sunday, Dec. 25; 12:00 am
 (midnight)

Holy Day Mass
The Nativity of our Lord
 Sunday, Dec. 25; 7:30 am

Holy Day Mass
The Nativity of our Lord
 Sunday, Dec. 25; 9:30 am

There will be
NO 11:30 am Mass
Sunday, Dec. 25th

Holy Day Vigil Mass
Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God
 Saturday, Dec. 31; 4:00 pm

Holy Day Mass
Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God
 Sunday, Jan. 1; 7:30 am

Holy Day Mass
Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God
 Sunday, Jan. 1; 9:30 am

Holy Day Mass
Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God
 Sunday, Jan. 1; 11:30 am



Dear Parishioners, cont..

puzzle. Actually, all we did was cut and paste. These values come straight out of the Catechism of the Church. We pray every week in the Nicene Creed, "I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church." They aren't exactly normal values, and you have to think a bit to apply them. For instance, I had thought of having a value of "hospitality". But actually, that is included in what we have. Since we are "one" we value unity. We want to bring people closer in and treat them as the closest family. We are also 'catholic' which means "universal". That means we are to include all people. Pretty cool when you think about, right? These four values are called the "Four Marks of the Church." We often don't think about them, but now having them as a parish's values, will hopefully

force us to do this. As a parish, we represent the whole Church, just on a smaller scale. I pray these are truly the four marks of our parish.

Last, we have included the goals from our strategic plan. Our parish gathered about 40 parishioners together in various subcommittees from February this year until June to brainstorm and identify key insights into our parish and our situations and then to plan and create goals to get where we need to be over the next 3 years. There are many tasks under these goals with deadlines, but that was simply too much to publish. It is not a perfect plan, but it is a plan. I've heard it said, "If you fail to plan, you can plan to fail." We get so bogged down in just the urgent, nitty-gritty of each day and season, that it is

so hard to think long-term and see the forest instead the trees. This plan helps us to at least try to get to some very important things. We've already begun implementing these things. I fully expect some awesome things to come from doing this.

So again, please review our parish mission/vision/values/goals. Don't throw this away, but keep it and review it from time to time. Consider your own involvement in the parish in light of these things. Keep me, parish leadership and staff, and your fellow parishioners accountable on these things. May God give us the grace to live this out, and may our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us!

Fa. Greg Hammer



Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church

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M O S T P U R E H E A R T O F M A R Y

Coming Events

First Reconciliation

Wed., Nov. 30; 6:00 pm
Church

Welcome Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 5; 10:30 am
O'Connor Hall

Holy Day Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception

Wed., Dec. 7; 5:30 pm
Church

Holy Day Vigil Masses Immaculate Conception

Thurs., Dec. 8
7:00 am, 12:05 & 6:00 pm
Church

Parish Office Closed

Thurs., Dec. 8

Church Cleaning

Sat., Dec. 10; 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Church

K of C Breakfast (Music Ministry)

Sun., Dec. 11; 8:00 - 11:30 am
O'Connor Hall

Lessons and Carols

Sun., Dec. 11; 4:00 pm
Church

Communal Penance Services

See page 7

Parish Office Closed

Fri., Dec. 16
Closes at Noon

Christmas Masses

See page 7

Parish Office Closed

Fri., Dec. 23
&
Mon. Dec. 26

Parish Office Reduced Hours

Tues. - Fri., Dec. 27-30
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Parish Office Closed

Mon., Jan. 2

Welcome Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 8; 10:30 am
O'Connor Hall

K of C Breakfast (Youth Group)

Sun., Jan. 15; 8:00 - 11:30 am
O'Connor Hall

Catholic Schools Week

Sunday, Jan. 29 - Saturday, Feb. 4

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins
Wednesday, March 1