



ST. LAURENCE PARISH PRIORITY PLAN



VISION STATEMENT

Led by the Holy Spirit and united by the Eucharist we will welcome, respect, and value our multicultural heritage. As Catholic Christians we will provide a home where all feel worthy to be loved, served, and cherished. We will reflect Christ in our community, and as Missionary Disciples invite all to encounter Jesus in prayer, in works of mercy, and in worship.

OUR SACRED PURPOSE

The purpose of St. Laurence Parish is to be a home where everyone knows the loving embrace of God their Father. We use our cultural diversity and our faith in God's providence to motivate and form each other to be Missionary Disciples sent by the Holy Spirit to love and serve one another.

OUR PARISH VALUES

DISCIPLESHIP (EVANGELISM)

We are a parish family that intentionally decides to follow Jesus wholeheartedly as Missionary Disciples and lives out the great commission of Jesus (Mt. 28:18) by making others Missionary Disciples.

- We will share our faith with others, courageously and without fear, explaining how Christ has loved us and impacted our lives.
- We will promote a culture of imitating Jesus Christ (discipleship) through sacrificial giving, works of mercy, authentically sharing our talents, and laying down our lives for one another.
- We will openly and boldly describe how the Good News of Jesus informs our daily interactions with family, friends, and everyone.

COURAGE

We are a parish family that has received and been confirmed in the Holy Spirit. As such we will face all of our parish decisions and discussions with courage.

- We will embrace the difficulty of conflict by boldly speaking up and patiently listening to each other in meetings and discussions - particularly in moments of disagreement.
- We will consistently choose to act from a spirit of courage over timidity, humbly proposing actions and approaches that depend on God's providence rather than limiting our options to our own capabilities.
- We will boldly follow Christ as Missionary Disciples and orient all our decisions toward fostering a culture of missionary discipleship in our parish. This will include a culture of inviting others to encounter Christ at St. Laurence as well as a culture of holding one another accountable as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Recognizing our cultural diversity, we will exercise courage in leaving our own comfort zone and including all our parishioners in our activities and organizations whenever possible.

HOPE/JOY

In a world full of discouraging news and suffering, we choose to place God our Father and our shared Catholic faith in the center of our lives and to place ALL our hope in Jesus Christ.

- We will persevere in prayer - together as a parish in liturgical prayer, most perfectly in the Mass; among our families in our homes; and as a personal priority in our own lives.
- We will regularly communicate parish prayer priorities and needs so that we can all be united in prayer for our shared needs.
- We will train and facilitate personal testimonies on "the reason for our hope" (1 Peter 3:15) by offering talks and having parishioners share their testimonies regularly at Sunday Masses.
- We will practice gratitude as individuals and as a parish family to cultivate joy and hope. Our families will commit to daily prayer of Thanksgiving. Our parish groups and meetings will emphasize sharing gratitude as part of our opening and/or closing prayers.

SOLIDARITY

Following the compelling examples of Jesus Christ himself, who became one of us, we unite as Saint Laurence Parish in a spirit of intentional sharing and unconditional service to the people of God.

- We commit ourselves to the leadership of service.
- We will search for socio-economic structures that promote unity.
- We will promote peace in a world besieged by violence and conflict.

PRIORITIES & GOALS

PRIORITY #1: FORM MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Definition: Missionary Disciples have made an intentional choice to put following Jesus Christ as their number one priority in life. Their Catholic faith gives meaning and direction to every aspect of their daily lives and life goals.

Rationale: "Apart from Jesus we can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5), while "with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26). Jesus consistently invited others to follow Him. If we respond to His call as Missionary Disciples, this will yield a beautiful harvest in our parish community as the example of our lived faith invites our youth and our community to follow Jesus along with us.

Goal #1: Involve 10-15 middle school and high school aged students in a youth ministry program by June 2025.

Goal #2: Involve 50-75 adults in a small group faith formation program by September 2025.

- Strategy: Communicate the reality, purpose, and importance of missionary discipleship to the Parish by June 2024.

Goal #3: Involve 25-50 people in a Hospitality Ministry to serve our varied parish needs by July 2025.



PRIORITY #2: ENHANCE COMMUNICATION

Definition: Communicate clear, concise, consistent, and accessible information by multiple media channels (social media, bulletin, pulpit, etc.)

Rationale: Good communication fosters a sense of belonging and ownership in a community.

Goal #1: Publish Council communications in the bulletin and website within two weeks of each council meeting beginning March 2024.

Goal #2: Increase the strongly agrees on "I would recommend the staff of my parish to a friend" by 50 people by September 2025.

PRIORITY #3: UNITE CULTURES

Definition: To unite our diverse and growing multicultural community so that all feel welcome and one in faith, in order to form Missionary Disciples sent to love and serve one another.

Rationale: We want to build a strong foundation for the future generations/cultures of St. Laurence Parish so that all can encounter God in our community.

Goal #1: Appoint one person from each worshipping community (English, Spanish, & Vietnamese) to the Parish Council, Finance Council and School Board by September 2024.

Goal #2: By May 2025 involve a minimum of 200 people in at least three annual events that celebrate our diverse cultures while also uniting us as one body in Christ.



SAINT LAURENCE PARISH

8245 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082

610-449-0600

office@saintlaurencedelco.org

www.saintlaurencedelco.org



@saintlaurencedelco

