

St. Maurice Parish

Pastoral Plan

Promulgated on March 27, 2016

The Resurrection of Our LORD

*Awaken
your Spirit*





"A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust"

Saint Maurice Church

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Sunday, March 27, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you our parish Pastoral Plan, entitled *Awaken Your Spirit!* This plan has been developed with great care over the past year and a half by our parish Pastoral Council in consultation with parish staff and leaders, diocesan guidelines, and with a mind toward the future planning that the diocesan initiative *On Mission for the Church Alive* entails.

This living document is a three-to-five year plan that will need the participation of every parishioner to become fully realized. By its very nature it may lend itself over time to some revision and adjustment. We need your participation and support to awaken our spirits and become more and more the Church Alive!

I want to thank all those who participated in the development of this document for their expertise, passion, and hard work. We can all be very grateful that we have so many energetic parish leaders who are willing to give all that they can for the good of St. Maurice. I look forward to exploring the plan with you during the weeks and months ahead.

As I announce today the official promulgation of our Pastoral Plan, I also want to take the opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Easter and a most blessed season to follow.

In Christ,

Fr. John W. Skirtich

Pastor

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Parish
is a parish family united by:
our celebration of vibrant liturgy,
a spirit of generosity,
and the diverse backgrounds, talents,
and gifts of our members.

We gather as a faith community
to participate in the sacraments
and deepen our understanding of:
the will and mercy of God the Father,
the love and teachings of Jesus Christ his Son,
and the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

In the spirit of those who built and nurtured
St. Maurice Parish over the decades,
we remain committed to do God's will
and to further His kingdom on earth
by welcoming parishioners, visitors,
and all in need of a church community.

Our parish fosters worship, spirituality,
growth in faith, and responsible stewardship.
Based on the foundation of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ, the preaching of the Apostles,
and the teaching of the Church,
we will continue to cultivate a supportive,
collaborative, vibrant, and service-oriented parish.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PASTORAL PLAN

In early 2015, St. Maurice Parish Pastoral Council, under the guidance of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Office for Parish Advisory Councils, and in collaboration with our Pastor, Father John Skirtich, embarked upon the task of developing a thoughtful, forward-looking Parish Pastoral Plan that is rooted in our Mission and Vision Statements, focused on the current and future needs of our Parish, and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Our first mandate was to develop a Mission Statement and Vision Statement reflective of the values and aspirations of St. Maurice Parish. Following input from the St. Maurice Parish Staff and Ministry Leaders, a new Mission Statement and Vision Statement emerged. This was a lengthy process of discernment, whereby the Parish Pastoral Council along with parish committee members conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis and evaluated what our parish mission is and what our desired future state needs to be. Our Mission and Vision Statements were socialized with our Parish in May 2015, and now are framed in the main vestibule of our church building and occasionally adorn the cover of the weekly parish bulletin. Viewers of the St Maurice Parish website can also read these statements. This achievement was truly an important and exciting first step toward the development of our Parish Pastoral Plan.

The Mission & Vision Statements were only the foundational component of our process of developing a parish Pastoral Plan. Following the guidance provided by the Diocese's Office of Parish Advisory Councils and with much collaboration and prayer, we proceeded next to gather important details which would enable Pastoral Council to assess parish life in its current state.

We analyzed feedback previously collected in various meetings with Parish leaders, including representatives from the Finance Council, school leaders and parents, parish staff/employees; ministers involved in the various Parish ministries; and started to formulate plans which would eventually be revised and refined into a Pastoral Plan for our Parish.

The next stage involved the development of broad Goals for the Parish that were rooted in the Mission and Vision Statements, followed by specific, supporting, objectives designed to enable us to achieve our Goals within a reasonable period of time. Finally, before sharing the Parish Pastoral Plan with our Parish Community, we reviewed a draft with key St. Maurice Parish Staff and Finance Council to ensure that the document addresses the five essential qualities of parish life as defined by Bishop Zubik: Eucharist (liturgy), Formation (service), Stewardship, Catechesis, and Evangelization (outreach).

The following Pastoral Plan embodies the core values called out in our Mission and Vision Statements. Achieving the goals outlined will require the participation every member of St. Maurice Parish, your passion, your talents, your energy and your love for both St. Maurice Parish and one another. We ask you to prayerfully reflect on this Pastoral Plan and more importantly consider your role in helping our parish community achieve the goals outlined herein in order to elevate our parish into all it is capable of being.

FIVE ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF PARISH LIFE:

Eucharist

Stewardship

Formation

Catechesis

Evangelization

THE PASTORAL PLAN

1. Define parish constituency.

Evangelization, Stewardship

Objectives:

- ✦ Create a process to update an accurate database of all active parishioners at St. Maurice Parish.
- ✦ Assess present database of parishioners, identify data errors, and scrub data errors to be accomplished by May 1, 2016.
- ✦ Identify, evaluate, and contract with a third party firm to assist us with the process of validating data in the parish system by Summer 2016.
- ✦ Conduct Parish Census to cross reference against scrubbed data in Parish Database System software (PDS).
- ✦ Use the accurate list to create a directory of parishioners with the specific talents they have.

2. Address campus properties.

Stewardship

Objectives:

- ✦ Create a Sister of Mercy Gathering Center to be completed by Fall 2016 that is:
 - ◆ Located in the Parish Center parlor.
 - ◆ A structurally sound, comfortably furnished, climate controlled meeting and conference area with WI-FI and presentation capabilities.
- ✦ Update Keane Hall & the Parish Center with a sound system and flat screens.
- ✦ Install WI-FI on the parish campus.
- ✦ Examine a possible repurposing of church building space (e.g., Sacristy, Chapel).

3. Ensure the goals of the Pastoral Plan are adequately funded by dedicating a percentage of parish income to carry out and maintain the goals of the plan.

Stewardship

Objectives:

- ✦ Meet regularly with the parish Business Manager and representatives from Finance Council to discuss upcoming projects and how to fund them.

4. Explore regionalization opportunities for catechetical programs in conjunction with the Diocesan *On Mission for the Church Alive* Program.

Formation, Catechesis, Stewardship, & Evangelization

Objectives:

- ✦ Explore alternative models for scheduling and configuration of the CCD program in collaboration with the consortium of parishes.
- ✦ Investigate a common CCD program for all 6 parishes and 300 young people in grades K-8.
- ✦ Promote and support the growth and development of East Catholic School in collaboration with the consortium of parishes .
- ✦ Encourage collaboration with the consortium of parishes on Adult Education programs. Examples include:
 - ◆ Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
 - ◆ Pre-Cana
 - ◆ Baptism Preparation
 - ◆ Health & Wellness
 - ◆ Lectures
- ✦ Promote and support collaboration of youth programs with the consortium of parishes to target middle and high school age children through:
 - ◆ Youth Ministry
 - ◆ Service
 - ◆ Catechesis

5. Enhance the opportunities for fellowship experiences.

Evangelization

Objectives:

- ✦ Establish a hospitality committee to encourage fellowship among parishioners by Fall 2017.
- ✦ Maintain a welcome ministry and encourage other parishioners to participate.
- ✦ Maintain a Welcome Desk, a concierge area as people enter the church building, to provide information about our parish.



6. Maintain a Service & Outreach committee to oversee service related initiatives at St. Maurice.

Evangelization, Formation

Objectives:

- ✦ Explore a sister parish program.
 - ◆ Partner with a parish that has an established sister parish program in 2017.
 - ◆ Identify options of a potential sister parish in 2018.
- ✦ Maintain and continue to build a relationship with Habitat for Humanity by participating in local projects and volunteering at the ReStore.
- ✦ Explore the idea of a refugee family sponsorship program through St. Maurice Parish in 2018.
- ✦ Establish evangelization programming for children of the parish to encourage within them a spirit for service, beginning in 2016. Examples include:
 - ◆ Sports Camp
 - ◆ Service and a Movie Night

7. Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and development.

Eucharist, Catechesis, Formation

Objectives:

- ✦ Develop days of reflection for liturgical ministers that would include prayer and discussion for the improvement of ministries for the following groups in Fall 2016:
 - ◆ Lectors
 - ◆ Eucharistic Ministers
 - ◆ Music Ministry
- ✦ Develop two mornings of prayer per year for parish leaders to foster communication between various committees in Fall 2016.
- ✦ Explore possible revision of the Mass schedule for Sundays in accordance with the *On Mission for the Church Alive* campaign.
- ✦ Develop a Parish Mission which will be scheduled every third year prior to Advent.
- ✦ Enhance adult education by continued engagement of adults in the process of learning and nurturing their faith through the use of multiple learning styles.

8. Enhance our parishioners sacramental experiences at St. Maurice by offering additional support for sacraments.

Eucharist, Catechesis

Objectives:

- ✦ Establish baptismal follow-ups every 6 months through age three using mailed formational supplements beginning in 2017.
- ✦ Coordinate follow-ups for the Pre-Cana program beginning in 2017.
- ✦ Explore ways to support parish families following funeral beginning in 2018.
- ✦ Maintain the offering of a formal Sacrament of the Sick on a monthly basis after the Sunday Noon Mass.

Prayer for *On Mission for The Church Alive!*

Father of Mercy,
as we journey *On Mission for The Church Alive!*,
endow us with your gifts
of collaboration, courage and compassion.
Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and His Church
through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.
Raise up selfless, energetic leaders
to serve the Church in fidelity and with care.
May we, the Church of Pittsburgh
in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene,
Lawrence, and Washington counties,
be sustained and strengthened by your grace.
Help us to learn Jesus, to love Jesus, and to live Jesus.
Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with the help of our dear Blessed Mother,
under the mantle of her love.

Amen.