



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Epiphany Parish
Pastoral Plan 2015

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great pleasure that I commend to you the Pastoral Plan for the Catholic Community of the Epiphany.

Bishop Bambera, in “Wounded and Loved,” his pastoral vision for the Diocese of Scranton, both inspired and empowered our Parish Pastoral Council to look to the future. With your help, we followed his lead and now offer you this exposition of our Mission, our Vision, our Core Values as well as our Goals and Objectives for the next three to five years, all focused on God’s call to us to be servant leaders.

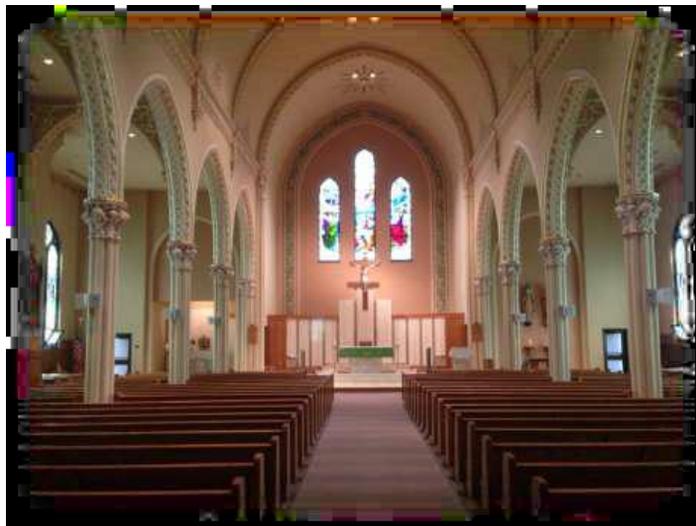
Your role in this process is essential to its success. We asked you to share your thoughts and dreams about Epiphany Parish and over one hundred of you participated in the interview process called Appreciative Inquiry. Your insights and ideas about our Ministries of Word, Worship, Community and Service were insightful, heartfelt and important. Our Parish Pastoral Council worked for almost a year digesting the interview results. We searched your responses for themes of strength in our parish (there were many!) and opportunities for growth. From them the council developed this Pastoral Plan. I thank them for their good work.

The plan, of course, is only a beginning. Now we must put it into action and help Epiphany Parish continue to grow. We are a vibrant and caring parish, blessed with an abundance of God’s gifts. It is our challenge to apply them to our call to holiness and mission, knowing that, as Bishop Bambera so eloquently stated, “It is not by mere conviction that we will be assured of a relationship with God but by the action of our lives poured forth in love.”

Thank you all for taking the time to review our Pastoral Plan and for what I know will be your willingness to help make our plan work.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, Pastor



OUR MISSION AND VISION

The Mission and Vision of Epiphany Parish were created as we joined together to become the Catholic Community of the Epiphany. We affirm Epiphany's Mission and Vision.

MISSION

We, the Catholic Community of the Epiphany, are called through Baptism to be Disciples of Christ. We form a welcoming parish family that challenges each other to live God's word through love, worship, education and service in our pursuit of holiness. We strive to preserve our rich cultural heritage. We aim to foster an atmosphere where vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life are encouraged. We are nourished by the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of all that we are. We are a people dedicated to the sanctity of all human life and to being good stewards of our time, talent and treasure, both here and throughout the world.

VISION

The Catholic Community of the Epiphany envisions the presence and ongoing growth of a vibrant Catholic community of faith, hope and love, serving Jesus Christ and His Gospel, both here and throughout the world.

OUR CORE VALUES

In the voices of our parishioners, we heard and identified the Core Values of the Catholic Community of the Epiphany.

SERVING

Service to our brothers and sisters is an obligation that brings us closer to God.

“How different groups came together to help others blows me away.”

“Working at the free community meal has shown more love and compassion to ‘the least of my brothers and sisters’ than I had done before.”

“I feel like I am giving back. I have a smile in my heart.”

WELCOMING

As a welcoming Catholic community, we invite all to seek a relationship with God and one another.

“The level of acceptance was so warm and friendly that when there came a time to move, I turned around, unpacked [the] truck and stayed, because of my experience in this church.”

“Being able to feel a part of the church community, valued and appreciated.”

“I have always felt at home here.”

OUR CORE VALUES

LIFE-GIVING AND SUSTAINING

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual journey is nourished with prayer, liturgy, adoration and education.

“My church makes me feel a sense of peace and tranquility.”

“After joining the youth group, I gained an understanding of my faith I never had before.”

“Fulfillment, peace and comfort of adoration.”

BEING CATHOLIC

We are united in our Catholic faith by a richness in tradition and liturgy.

“Experience of Mass and listening to sermons and learning how the Word applies to daily life.”

“Relationship with God fed through Eucharist and prayer life.”

“Being proud and happy that I am Catholic.”

OPEN TO GOD AND GOD'S WILL

We find our way by being open to God and His plans for us.

“I came to this place not because I was missing something or someone, but to become more of what I should be and to listen to Him who calls.”

“When I am struggling, I ask for help and find it in Him.”

“I have come to know Jesus as a real person.”

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Guided by our Mission and Vision and strengthened by our Core Values, we will focus on five goals and the objectives that will help us achieve them.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN THOSE THINGS THAT FEED US

Objective: Expand existing faith education opportunities.

Objective: Establish a formal, ongoing catechetical program.

Objective: Enhance spiritual growth opportunities.

Objective: Sustain our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

GOAL: INCREASE PARISHIONER INVOLVEMENT

Objective: Help parishioners discover their gifts and talents.

Objective: Enhance awareness of ministry opportunities in the parish.

Objective: Enhance the welcoming environment.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL: ENHANCE COMMUNICATION

Objective: Establish a communications ministry.

Objective: Use multiple methods to communicate with parishioners.

Objective: Ensure ongoing awareness of communication trends.

GOAL: IMPROVE PARISHIONERS AWARENESS OF OUR CALL TO EVANGELIZE

Objective: Catechize parishioners so they understand that God loves and saves them and that they are called to spread this Good News.

Objective: Make visible the Joy of the Gospel as exemplified by Pope Francis.

Objective: Enhance the welcoming environment.

GOAL: INVITE MORE PARISHIONERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SERVICE MINISTRIES

Objective: Clarify the needs of our parishioners and the community.

Objective: Identify ways to respond to those needs.

IN CLOSING

The Parish Pastoral Council was honored to have been able to participate in this process of engaging with our parishioners and developing, with your help, a parish pastoral plan that will guide us for the next three to five years.

We are even more excited to work with you to bring this plan to life. Please consider joining us at a parish “Dream & Design Day” in the near future where we will create action steps to make these dreams a reality. Together and with God’s help, we will strive to fulfill our mission, achieve our vision and live our values in our community and our world.

So let us move confidently forward into the future, knowing that we are doing God’s work and trusting in His Grace to support us always. And let us continue to ask for His blessing using our Epiphany Parish Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bind our parish together in love and peace, through the power of Your Spirit living in us. Unite us in faith and love to You and to each other, in a deeper bond, as Your family. Help us to use all the graces and gifts, talents and abilities that You have given us in order to build up Your body, the Church. O loving God, guide us as we grow together, so that we, Your children, brothers and sisters in the Catholic Community of the Epiphany, may be the parish You want us to be – the Body of Christ, Your Son and our brother, bringing Your love into our world. AMEN.



Prepared by the Epiphany Parish Pastoral Council: The Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, Pastor; the Reverend Bryan Wright, Assistant Pastor; Sister Kathleen Kelly; Joan Coveleskie; Dolores King; Carol & Ralph Meyer; Meg & Gerard Spagnoli and John Schoonover. 2015