

BE IT DONE: LIVING IN THE WORD THROUGH WORSHIP, WITNESS AND SERVICE

PASTORAL PRIORITIES PLAN 2024-2026

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC PARISH

Preamble

The overarching focus at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish has always been invitation and welcome.

- We welcome those who are present at our masses each week and invite them to become more involved in the life of our parish by sharing their gifts and participating in ministry and/or service,
- We welcome and extend an open invitation to those who are seeking to join the Church as well as those who have fallen away from the Church and wish to return.
- We welcome and extend a warm invitation to families from our schools to regularly worship with us.

All are welcome. All belong.

As a parish, we are also inspired by the Holy Father, who has declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, with the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*. In his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee year, Pope Francis encouraged us to “fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and a far-sighted vision.” How fitting this is! We journey together as pilgrims of hope as we embark on our three-year journey of integrating the Pastoral Priorities of Eucharistic Worship, Confident Witness and Service to Marriage and Families more seamlessly into the faith life of our parish. We look forward to serving the faithful in our parish with a spirit of welcome, invitation and hope.

PRIORITY 1: FORMATION FOR EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP

“The Eucharist is God’s response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the true hunger.” – Pope Francis

What is the focus? Worship

To reinvigorate worship and invite people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist

What steps are needed?

1. Catechesis Programs
 - a. Parish
 - Short videos prior to mass sharing information about the Eucharist
 - Effective and focused homilies that clearly relate to the readings of the day.
 - Parish mission focused on the Eucharist with engaging mission leader. Invite families from schools to attend.

- Place special emphasis on the Feast of Corpus Christi as we introduce a focus on the Eucharist
 - Celebrate Eucharistic Ministers, explain what they do and emphasize the great significance of receiving the Eucharist.
 - Workshops & seminars, offered by experts, focusing on the theology of the Eucharist.
- b. Outreach to Schools
- Continue to work with schools to ensure that students know the parts of the mass and actively participate in liturgy.
 - Continue to work with schools to facilitate the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.
 - Since we offer sessions at various times throughout the year, provide assistance to other parishes by collaborating within the deanery group in offering sacramental preparation. Encourage volunteer participation from different parishes in sacramental preparation.
 - Continue to work in partnership with Archbishop Jordan High School in offering the Chosen (RCIA) program for high school students.
 - Invite families of children receiving the sacraments to reaffirm their own commitment to the Church and to the Eucharist as they support their children in preparing for the sacraments.
 - Encourage families to have devotions at home that focus on the Eucharist, such as prayers before meals and discussions about the Mass.
 - Invite school staff and students to lead ministries such as music, proclaiming, altar serving (if trained and already on roster) on designated Sunday masses throughout the year. Designated masses could include Catholic Education Sunday, First Eucharist Celebrations, Catholic Education Week.

2. Community Practices

- Develop a prayer for renewed Eucharistic worship to be prayed over the next three years.
- Ask Prayer Laudators to pray for the success of our priorities and goals.
- Pray for the success of our priorities in Prayers of the Faithful each week.
- Provide regular opportunities for Adoration and Holy Hours in both the parish and in our schools.
- Hold a Eucharistic procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi to publicly witness to our belief in the real presence.

3. Use of Media and Technology

a. Online Content:

- Develop a strong presence on social media and invite parishioners, students and their parents, and school staff to follow us. Use social media as a way to continue to provide outreach and education to the parish and school communities.

- Use social media channels to share quotes, stories and reflections on the Eucharist.
- Educational Videos: provide links to video resources that explain the theology and significance of the Eucharist.
- Webinars and Podcasts: Point parishioners to webinars and podcasts that focus on the theology and significance of the Eucharist.
- Include a link to short video reflections on the Eucharist in Fr. Jim's weekly bulletin message.
- Consider a weekly Flocknote message pointing parishioners to a video reflection on the Eucharist.
- Provide links to Church documents and vetted resources related to the Eucharist (eg. Dynamic Catholic, FORMED, Word on Fire, Ascension Press).
- Provide links to online materials on the Parish website.

How to track progress?

- Parish surveys to gauge success of initiatives with parishioners.
- Percentage of people attending mass regularly increases.
- Percentage of people across all age groups increases.
- Level of engagement in all sacraments increases.
- More people are receiving the Eucharist at masses.
- More people are receiving the Eucharist with reverence.
- More families are attending mass and participating in the life of the Church.
- More subscribers to parish social media channels.
- Increased participation in ministries.
- Parish finances are increased and more tax receipts are issued.

Supports Needed

- Clergy support for all areas of the plan – succinct and focused homilies, teaching about the Eucharist, school visits.
- Liturgy Council support and assistance with all areas of the plan.
- School division and school support for building the partnership between home, school and parish.
- Volunteers who are effective and knowledgeable both in training and in liturgy.
- Volunteers who are welcoming and who make people feel part of the parish.
- Feedback channels for parishioners to express opinions, suggestions, concerns.
- Regular evaluation of parish programs and initiatives with emphasis on continuous improvement.
- Responsiveness to feedback and community needs.

PRIORITY 2: FORMING CONFIDENT WITNESSES

“Be a witness to Jesus Christ in the way you conduct your ordinary, everyday life, and it will become a masterpiece for God.” Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), Dec 26, 2020

What is the focus? Witness

To form people as confident witnesses to Jesus Christ in their everyday lives through words, actions and attitudes.

1. Catechesis on the formation of confident witnesses
 - Provide parishioners with formation for mission and social justice by presenting opportunities to learn about Catholic Social Teaching and the reasons for mission and action.
 - Providing opportunities for parishioners to learn to connect our encounter with Jesus Christ with mission in our parish, our schools and in the wider community.
 - Encourage people to take part in faith formation programs that encourage an encounter with Jesus, such as GIFT.

2. Service and Social Justice
 - Encourage parishioners to get involved in various parish ministries, providing opportunities to be a witness through service.
 - Encourage parishioners to share their time, talent and treasure by actively support social justice projects and initiatives in the parish.
 - Encourage parishioners to engage in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as ways to witness to Christ's love in the world.
 - Reflect on Pope Francis's emphasis on serving with joy and humility, making service a central aspect of being a faithful witness.

3. Launch Compassionate Parish
 - Provide spiritual and practical support for those who are dealing with illness, grief, loneliness, trauma, difficult situations.
 - Offer assistance to those who need help within our parish.
 - Emphasize respect for the dignity of human person as one of the basic principles of Catholic social teaching.
 - Establish linkages with Catholic social agencies to strengthen service offerings and opportunities for collaboration.

4. Linking Generations Project
 - Work with schools and care facilities to create linkages between generations in order to build connections and to serve one another.

5. Use of Media and Technology

- Develop a strong presence on social media and invite parishioners, students and their parents, and school staff to follow us. Use social media as a way to continue to provide outreach and education to the parish and school communities.
- Use social media channels to share quotes, stories and reflections on parish social justice initiatives, Catholic social teaching, corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Educational Videos: provide links to video resources that explain the theology and significance of social justice, Catholic social teaching, corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Webinars and Podcasts: Point parishioners to webinars and podcasts that focus on the theology and significance of social justice, Catholic social teaching, corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Include a link to short video reflections on social justice, Catholic social teaching, corporal and spiritual works of mercy in Fr. Jim's weekly bulletin message.
- Consider a weekly Flocknote message pointing parishioners to a video reflection on social justice, Catholic social teaching, corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Provide links to Church documents and vetted resources related to the social justice, Catholic social teaching and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (eg. Dynamic Catholic, FORMED, Word on Fire, Ascension Press).
- Provide links to online materials on the Parish website.

How to track progress?

- Parish surveys to gauge success of initiatives with parishioners.
- Percentage of people involved in parish social justice initiatives increases.
- Percentage of school-aged parishioners involved in social justice initiatives increases.
- More subscribers to parish social media channels.
- Increased participation in parish ministries.

Supports Needed

- Clergy support for all areas of the plan – succinct and focused homilies, teaching about social justice, Catholic social teaching, corporal and spiritual works of mercy.
- Parish Pastoral Council and Liturgy Council support and assistance with all areas of the plan.
- School division and school support for building the partnership between home, school and parish.
- Volunteers who are effective and knowledgeable both in training and in liturgy.
- Volunteers who are welcoming and who make people feel part of the parish.
- Feedback channels for parishioners to express opinions, suggestions, concerns.
- Regular evaluation of parish programs and initiatives with emphasis on continuous improvement.
- Responsiveness to feedback and community needs.

PRIORITY 3: FORMATION FOR SERVICE TO FAMILIES AND MARRIAGE

“Shared responsibility for [the Church’s] mission demands that married couples and ordained ministers, especially bishops, cooperate in a fruitful manner in the care and custody of the domestic Churches”. [4] Never forget that the family is the “fundamental cell of society.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 66)

What is the focus? Walking with families and married couples.

Focus on strengthening our work with families and married couples as they journey together in faith.

What steps are needed?

1. Marriage Preparation
 - Offer strong marriage preparation programs for couples.
 - Work with other parishes in our deanery group to develop and offer marriage preparation programs.
 - Walk with couples as they navigate married and family life.

2. Family Faith Formation
 - Develop support networks for families, singles, young adults, married couples, seniors.
 - Emphasize sacramentality of marriage and family when celebrating baptisms as a means of inviting married couples to reflect on the sacramentality of their own vows and to reignite them.
 - Invite parent and staff representatives from each school to serve on parish committee for building community and relationships with schools.
 - Encourage youth and young adults to take an active role in ministry as a way of becoming involved and establishing a life-long connection to and love for the Church.
 - Offer “long service” recognition for married couples celebrating milestone anniversaries.

3. Build Community Within the Parish
 - Provide opportunities for talk about key questions at coffee gatherings after designated masses.
 - Map out what we are offering and where we might have gaps in our ministry to others in order to improve practices.
 - Host family-oriented events such as parish picnics, parish potlucks or game nights.
 - Host events where married couples can meet and talk with one another.
 - Partner with school divisions or deanery groups to offer keynote speakers on topics related to pastoral priorities, including marriage and family life.

4. Use of Media and Technology
 - Develop a strong presence on social media and invite parishioners, students and their parents, and school staff to follow us. Use social media as a way to continue to provide outreach and education to the parish and school communities.

- Use social media channels to share quotes, stories and reflections on marriage and family life.
- Educational Videos: provide links to video resources that explain the theology and significance of marriage and family life in a Catholic context.
- Webinars and Podcasts: Point parishioners to webinars and podcasts that focus on the theology and significance of marriage and family life in a Catholic context.
- Include a link to short video reflections on marriage and family life in Fr. Jim's weekly bulletin message.
- Consider a weekly Flocknote message pointing parishioners to a video reflection on marriage and family life in a Catholic context.
- Provide links to Church documents and vetted resources related to marriage and family life (eg. Dynamic Catholic, FORMED, Word on Fire, Ascension Press).
- Provide links to online materials on the Parish website.

How to track progress?

- Parish surveys to gauge success of initiatives with parishioners.
- Number of families attending mass on a regular basis increases.
- Number of families and married couples attending events organized for them increases.
- More subscribers to parish social media channels.

Supports Needed

- Clergy support for all areas of the plan.
- School division and school support for building the partnership between home, school and parish.
- Volunteers who are effective and knowledgeable both in training and in liturgy.
- Volunteers who are welcoming and who make people feel part of the parish.
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