



St. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH



PASTORAL & STRATEGIC PLAN
2025-2030





Contents

- 2 *Introduction*
- 5 *Mission and Vision*
- 6 *Community and Discipleship*
- 9 *Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth*
- 10 *Care, Compassion, and Accompaniment*
- 13 *Outreach and Evangelization*
- 14 *Foundations*
- 17 *Prayer for Our Parish*



March 19, 2025

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over 170 years after Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C., founded Saint Joseph Parish, ours is a thriving community where the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed, neighbors are served in love, and children are educated in the faith of the Apostles. This is thanks to the blessing of God and to the generations of Saint Joseph faithful who have called this parish their spiritual home. Our forebears entrusted to us a magnificent heritage and it is up to us to build upon that heritage for the people of today and for those who will come tomorrow.

During my first two years as pastor, I identified that we, as a community, were in need of thoughtful, focused, and prayerful planning about our future. This arises neither out of a crisis nor an obvious lack, but rather out of a great abundance of opportunities. We at St. Joe can do most anything, but we cannot do everything. I know that I am not, by nature, gifted with the type of long-term planning skills that are necessary to create this type of comprehensive plan. Blessedly, my effectiveness as pastor does not rely upon my gifts alone. I am thankful to all of those whose work, time, and dedication make up for my shortcomings and have made a plan such as this possible. I am immensely grateful to the Strategic Planning Team of Dan Cory, Carolyn Gibbs, Alyssa Jezewak, Sean Kennedy, Tammy McNally, and Stacey Noem; to David Bailey and Lissa Bill from Institutional Research, Innovation, & Strategy at the University of Notre Dame for guiding the planning team; to our Parish Pastoral Team for their critical insight; to the 50+ parishioners who participated in our listening sessions; and to all members of Saint Joseph Parish who supported our efforts with their prayers.

This document is the fruit of the Holy Spirit working in our midst. Throughout this entire process, we have turned to God, inviting Him to guide us in this endeavor.

No plan for our parish, no matter how clever, would be of any use if God was not its author. I believe this plan will help us as a parish to continue to do the good work that we are already doing and to focus on new, creative, and effective ways of making God known, loved, and served.

I am excited for the implementation of this plan. I believe it will provide a framework for us to move forward with evermore effective, engaging, and exciting events. It will guide us as we strengthen our understanding of ourselves as a community rooted in the Body of Christ. It will help to ensure beautiful and abundant engagement in the sacraments. It will examine the appropriateness, beauty, and fittingness of our physical spaces. It will guide our instruction and formation in the faith of all of our people. In short, I believe this process will help us all to love Jesus more.

A couple of notes to help guide you as you read this plan. First, there is a level of detail that is not published here yet is a fundamental part of the plan. So, if you find yourself saying, "yes, but how, specifically, will we accomplish the goals and objectives of this plan?" that is where our "key results" come in. They are more actionable, concrete steps that will continue to develop and change throughout the lifespan of this plan with input from our Pastoral Team and our lay councils and commissions. These key results are too granular to include now, but do not fret; much time has and will continue to be spent on these implementation-level steps. Second, you may notice that we have generally refrained from mentioning specific ministries in this wider view of the plan. Here at Saint Joseph Parish, we are blessed with a robust number of ministries, each beautiful and each important in carrying out our mission. They flow from our origin in Christ, through the parish, and out to the world. Our ministries will be an essential component in the successful execution of this Pastoral & Strategic Plan, and will be found in great abundance in our key results.

Here now, on this blessed Solemnity of St. Joseph, I present to you the Pastoral & Strategic Plan for Saint Joseph Parish, 2025-2030. I invite you to prayerfully read over this plan, reflecting on these questions: How is the Lord inviting me to help implement this articulation of our mission? How can this plan assist us individually and as a Body of Christ in making God known, loved, and served in order to bring salvation to others and to ourselves?

St. Joseph, our holy patron, pray for us!

Rev. Matt Fase, CSC

Fr. Matt Fase, CSC
Pastor



Mission

Saint Joseph Catholic Church is a vibrant, intergenerational parish, inviting all with the words of Jesus: "Come and see."

Anchored in the charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we strive to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and to grow as a faith community by making God known, loved, and served.

Vision

Our call is to be a welcoming community of disciples boldly and energetically living the Catholic faith.

We will deepen our relationship with God by fully and actively participating in the sacraments, nourishing our hearts and minds through greater knowledge of His word and example, and serving others with great zeal.

Community and Discipleship

Goal: Modeled on the love of the Holy Family, foster a deep and sustaining sense of community, belonging, and discipleship through participation and engagement across the parish.

- **Intentional Community:** Create and better articulate intentional opportunities for community gathering, both large and small, in order to nourish an environment where all parishioners feel welcome and truly a part of our St. Joe family.
- **Personal Invitation:** With a special emphasis on individual outreach, invite parishioners and school families to greater participation in the Body of Christ.
- **Connectedness:** Deepen the connection between parishioners through the sharing of personal experiences in faith and ministry.





Key: August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil Mass

AUGUST 15
THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY **SOLEMNITY**
(01) AT THE VIGIL MASS

FIRST READING
(Chronicles 29: 1-9, 15-19) *Then he brought in the ark of the covenant into the temple which David had prepared for it, and as he went in, within the most holy place David had prepared for it.*

A reading from the first Book of Chronicles
 David I assembled all Israel to Jerusalem to bring the ark of the covenant into the temple which David had prepared for it.
 David also chose together like sons of Aaron and the Levites to minister before the ark of God, and to sing psalms, hymns, and canticles, and to play on musical instruments, harp, lyre, and organ.
 David also divided the Levites into courses according to the Law which Moses had ordained according to the word of the Lord.
 David commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint three hundred men to minister before the ark of God with psalms, and to make a loud sound of rejoicing.
 Then he offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.
 The word of the Lord.



BOOK OF GOSPELS

Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth

Goal: Expand, refine, and promote opportunities for formation, reception of the sacraments, and spiritual growth to nourish hearts and minds.

- **Sacraments:** Promote reverence and ensure adequate opportunities to engage in the sacraments.
- **Prayer:** Offer diversified non-liturgical prayer opportunities to foster both communal and individual spiritual growth.
- **Adult Faith Formation:** Ensure there are opportunities, of desired and appealing formats, to deepen faith formation for all adults.
- **Youth Faith Formation:** Refine and deepen the experience of Catholic education and youth faith formation in the parish.

Care, Compassion, and Accompaniment

Goal: Accompany our brothers and sisters in all stages of their journey of faith and understanding, particularly amid cultural and social pressures, to encourage and support them in the love of Christ.

- **Accompaniment:** Create spaces to accompany parishioners who feel alone, unheard, unwelcome, or abandoned.
- **Intersection of Faith and Culture:** Create timely opportunities that allow our parish community to reflect on Christ's love as we engage in conversations about difficult issues within society, the parish, and the Church.





**SAINT
JOSEPH
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

EST. 1853



Outreach and Evangelization

Goal: Share the love and salvation of Christ through our witness and service, especially to those living near our parish or in great need, as we stand to learn much from those we encounter and serve.

- **Serving Those in Need:** Energize parishioners to encounter and serve the poor, afflicted, and suffering here in the heart of South Bend and throughout the world.
- **Embracing Those We Know:** Endeavor to re-engage the disengaged in our parish and school, that they might delight in the love of Christ.
- **Reaching Those We Don't Know:** Strategize evangelization opportunities and efforts to all in our neighborhood.
- **Partnerships:** Leverage the proximity to and relationships with the Notre Dame, St. Mary's, and Holy Cross campus communities, as well as our parish neighborhood, to share our collective gifts and enhance the vibrancy of our community.

Foundations

Goal: Ensure that our personnel, facilities, communications strategies, and financial plans, as well as our lay engagement, counsel, and leadership, all position our parish and school to effectively fulfill our mission.

- **Personnel:** Recruit, develop, and retain a vibrant, mission-driven parish and school team.
- **Facilities:** Conduct a needs assessment and plan for parish campus and space utilization, including developing long-term plans for worship space and its beautification.
- **Communications:** Renew our parish brand identity and identify communication tools and strategies that can be leveraged to support the goals and objectives of the parish.
- **Finances:** Create 3-5-year financial operating and capital plans that provide sources and uses of funding to achieve the parish mission.
- **Lay Counsel and Leadership:** Assess and reinvigorate the channels that allow parishioners to offer their voice and take ownership of our parish mission and vision.





Prayer for Our Parish

Glorious St. Joseph, we thank you for your example of quiet obedience to the Lord. You have shown the way to faithfully follow Him, and you are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you.

Help our parish to grow in faith. Help us to be a light for all in our community, guiding everyone to a deeper relationship with God.

Guide us in love and compassion for one another so that every breath brings us and those around us into closer communion with your adopted son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*St. Joseph, Pillar of Families, Comfort of the Afflicted, Protector of the Holy Church,
Pray for us!*



226 NORTH HILL STREET, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

WWW.STJOEPARISH.COM