

St. Jude the Apostle/St Mary Gate of Heaven Strategic Plan 2013-2020

“Growing together for the future”

Vision Statement:

As we seek to live the message of Jesus in our growing faith community, we will use 4 overarching pillars to support us and guide our plan for the future, emphasizing **communication and inclusiveness**:

- (1) We will reach across and remove barriers and **unite St Jude the Apostle and St Mary Gate of Heaven as one parish**;
- (2) We will strengthen **stewardship efforts to tithe our time, talent, and treasure** in service to our local community & those in need;
- (3) We will **nourish ourselves and our youth** by maintaining a robust faith formation program, by enhancing Bible study and spiritual growth opportunities, and by rejuvenating our Youth group.
- (4) We will plan for and **obtain appropriate facilities to consolidate St Jude/St Mary Gate of Heaven** into one location for worship, education, and social activities;

Mission Statement:

We are a people of faith giving witness to God's love in our community through our commitment to living and sharing the discipleship of Jesus. We do this through the celebration of the Word and Sacrament; the practice of peace and justice; and the sharing of our gifts. We seek to serve one another and the communities in which we exist through the living and preaching of the Gospel.

Assumptions:

Positive, direct, and consistent **communication** with individuals and the faith community **of the benefits/needs of unifying** as one Parish will facilitate shared ownership; **tangible actions** (Parish name, bank accounts, etc) are needed to eliminate separate identities

The Parish will **continue to grow** in active members at a rate between 2% and 5% per year for the next 5-10 years

The current **Parish infrastructure is not adequate** to fully support worship, social, and faith formation and will become more inadequate as the Parish grows over the next 5-10 years so planning must accommodate current needs and projected growth

St Mary Gate of Heaven will have **Sunday Mass only on Easter and then between Memorial Day and Labor Day**; the facilities will need to be maintained to accommodate services at the pavilion during that time period

Priorities:

Unify St Jude the Apostle/St Mary Gate of Heaven into a single community spiritually, socially, administratively & eventually physically

Implement a **strategic communication campaign to foster parishioner ownership of a unified Parish**, with the Pastor and key individuals from St Jude/St Mary communicating the vision, goals, and benefits for individuals and the Parish in a variety of forums

Develop/maintain a **Parish website** with timely, accurate information about ministries, plans, programs, and finances to facilitate communication and transparency

Evaluate and forecast infrastructure needs/costs for maintenance/improvements for current churches, rectory, and condo; develop a viable plan of action to **bridge the gap and address growing infrastructure needs in the next 1-7 years** until new facilities are built

Assess facility requirements to fully support the vision and long-term growth of the Parish; develop options/plan of action to **obtain land in the next 2 years** and **build a new church** with appropriate parish facilities **within the next 7-10 years**

Goals:

By Feb 2013, have a Parish strategic plan approved by the Pastor and Parish Council

By April 2013, have a functional Parish website with accurate and timely information

By June 2013, all Parish Council committees have plans that support the Parish and Diocese strategic plan and with measurable goals and objectives

By June 2013, conduct “public information” campaign throughout Parish to build ownership of shared vision, priorities, plans, and progress for the Parish; provide brief updates in an appropriate forum semiannually

By Sep 2013 “institutionalize” all Parish plans to ensure continuity and provide transparency by having approved versions in all Parish council books, saved electronically to a “master plans disk”, and posted on Parish website

Starting in Oct 2014 (unless directed earlier by the Pastor and Parish council), begin a 2 year review and revalidation cycle for the Parish strategic plan. Incorporate any updates/changes and republish with adjusted dates

Plan Approved: 12 Feb 2013
Next Plan Review: Oct 2014