

Church of the Ascension Pastoral Plan Summary

Church of Ascension has recently experienced significant change on two major fronts. First, our community has endured a worldwide pandemic caused by the COVID virus. Fortunately, we are now resuming our traditional forms of parish worship, prayer, and community-building activities.

Second, the Holy Spirit has inspired our parish to use this challenge as an opportunity to look for new ways to revitalize our spiritual development and personal relationship with God, and innovate new ways to pray, worship, and learn together. In addition, the Holy Father has asked all parishes to accelerate efforts to revitalize, renew, and reignite our Church's response to the original call of Our Lord's bidding.

Ascension has adopted a parish action plan for our parish renewal to identify essential actions, responsible parish committees/staffs, and approximate timelines to recover from the pandemic and reignite our parish faith, vision, mission, and ministries.

Five Major Initiatives to Revitalize, Renew, and Re-ignite the Ascension Parish

Over the next several months, Ascension will focus on the following initiatives to revitalize, renew, and reignite our parish faith, worship, and community life activities. Some of these initiatives are already underway, such as the *Growing Into Our Future* capital campaign (Initiative #5):

- **Initiative # 1:** Create a vision for the future of our parish.
- **Initiative # 2:** Integrate missionary discipleship principles throughout our parish life.
- **Initiative # 3:** Conduct a "welcome back" campaign to help the parish family recover from the pandemic and to draw all parishioners back to our worship, prayer, spiritual development, and community life activities.
- **Initiative # 4:** Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our parish by conducting a series of liturgies, dinners, picnics, and special events that remember our past and look to the future; and
- **Initiative # 5:** Carry out a \$1.5 million fundraising campaign to support both additional parish programming and the construction of a new parish administrative building.

The remainder of the Pastoral Plan is broken down into more traditional action areas based on the **Five Recognized Tenets of an Active Parish:**

1. Worship in Spirit and Truth
2. Proclaim and Witness the Gospel
3. Grow in Spiritual Knowledge and Maturity
4. Find Ways to Bring God's Love to All
5. Live as a Community (Walk together as a family)

Several smaller parish projects and initiatives are planned within each of these five areas which will be further identified and explained soon. They include such things as a greater sense of joy and participation at Mass, Eucharist for the homebound, additional Faith Formation programs, a parish-wide ministry review, and more.

We invite you to review the complete Pastoral Plan which can be found on our website:

www.ascensionvb.org/pastoralplan. Details of the Initiatives and Tenets are provided in the document, including timelines and responsible parties. We invite you to share your suggestions and comments with Dr. Joe Burke at jburke@keuka.edu.

Pastoral Council is thankful for the leadership of our Pastor, Father Daniel, and for the support of our parish family as we walk together to revitalize, renew, and reignite our Ascension parish.