

Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church

2018-2022 Pastoral Strategic Plan

We the members of Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church recognize that this community exists to proclaim the Good News and to help people encounter our ever-present God. We recognize that a vibrant church reaches outward into the community in addition to reaching inward to its parishioners. We acknowledge ourselves a community of broken people who seek salvation and healing in Jesus Christ and who invite others to do the same. We commit ourselves to providing a spiritual home that is welcoming, authentic, and inclusive—a spiritual home that helps others deepen their friendship with God and has a profound, positive impact on the lives of others.

We the members of Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church seek to embody these principles in each of the seven major focus areas of this Strategic Plan: Worship/Spiritual Development, Community, Parish Outreach, Education/Formation, Stewardship, Communications, and Facilities.

I. Worship/Spiritual Development

We commit to glorifying God through participation in the Mass, in the Sacraments, in prayer, retreats, private devotions, and in other spiritual enrichment opportunities.

- Develop and implement opportunities for all to share in worship and spiritual development
- Promote a “parent friendly” space during Mass
- Enhance participation in Mass, Devotions, Eucharistic Adoration, prayer, and the Sacraments
- Participate and host Diocesan-wide activities for youth and adults
- Provide various ways to encounter God through prayer; worship; and music for children, youth, and adults

II. Community

We commit to fostering a welcoming, authentic, and inclusive environment that develops missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Develop small faith groups that engage parishioners in fellowship, faith, and fun
- Explore ways to welcome newcomers
- Build community within our parish and the greater Birmingham area by supporting the feast of Saint Mark festival
- Accompany each other in our brokenness and healing
- Implement innovative ways Saint Mark parish can foster leadership skills and provide mentoring to our children, youth, and adults

III. Parish Outreach

We commit to living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy where we can be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ today.

- Promote charity and justice to meet the immediate needs of the poor
- Support existing parish outreach programs
- Explore and participate in new outreach opportunities in the Birmingham area
- Promote the sanctity of life from conception through natural death
- Develop Ecumenical relationships
- Expand participation in outreach opportunities by regularly recognizing the ministries of the parish

IV. Education / Formation

We commit to developing programs that deepen our Catholic understanding of Doctrine, Sacred Scripture, and Apostolic Tradition.

- Foster the Catholic identity of our youth by providing dynamic programs and “mercy experiences”
- Develop apprenticeship programs to fully engage our youth in the life of the Church
- Partner with Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School to provide parishioners the opportunity for parochial education
- Identify and promote ways to help parishioners deepen their relationship with Jesus through prayer, study, outreach, and evangelization

V. Stewardship

God is the giver of all gifts, and we encourage all to share their time, talent and treasure in our community and beyond.

- Increase the participation of families as they take ownership for the success of the parish
- Explore ways to help parishioners identify their spiritual gifts
- Be good stewards of God's earth
- Provide transparent fiscal responsibility and accountability
- Retire parish debt in a timely manner

VI. Communications

We commit to deepening relationships within our parish and community by improving communication.

- Establish a Communications Committee to develop and implement a comprehensive plan
- Enhance the parish website so it is navigable and provides critical information
- Connect Saint Mark parish with appropriate Social Media communication tools
- Raise the awareness and visibility of Saint Mark so all Catholics living in our area are able to learn about the parish
- Maintain a current database of parish members

VII. Facilities

We commit to providing an accessible, safe, and comfortable environment for worship, fellowship, education, and other services.

- Complete all phases of the Parish Life Center and Youth Center
- Explore the feasibility of a Mother's Day Out program
- Ensure beautification of the Church interior is in accordance with a developed Master Plan
- Establish dedicated funding for capital replacement of aging facilities
- Increase visibility, accessibility, and awareness of our parish, including a secondary entrance from Hwy 119
- Review use of the multi-purpose field for Parish activities
- Develop and implement safety procedures

Revised November, 2018