[PARISH TRANSFORMATION]

ACTION PLAN

Having prayed over and studied the components that give life to a parish's mission, we the people of **St. Andrew Parish** propose that the MISSION to which God is calling us is: *To take our Catechesis, Prayer and Worship, Communio and Missionary Spirit to a new level of mission which will help transform each of us in our parish life and our greater community as we continue to become intentional disciples of the Lord.*

Objective 1:
Establish formal lay leadership structures to create, oversee and sustain key components of parish life & ministries

- **Goal 1.1: Create a Faith Formation Commission (FFC) to develop and implement programs that help us to understand our faith**
  - Action: FFC conducts catechetical survey of parish with specific focus on continuing Adult Catechesis.
  - Action: FFC researches successful formation initiatives at area parishes.
  - Action: Using results of survey & research on models and makes recommendations for Adult Catechesis offerings here at Saint Andrew.
- **Goal 1.2: Create a Prayer and Worship Commission (PWC) to assist in ongoing liturgical ministry formation & provide programs to strengthen Parishioners' relationship with God through a more fruitful participation in the celebration of Mass.**
  - Action: PWC supports Pastor and Staff in recruiting, training, and managing schedules for liturgical ministries and related groups.
  - Action: PWC develops periodic *(annual initially; expanding to quarterly or monthly (depending on ministry)* ongoing training program for liturgical ministry in coordination with program sign-up and orientation.
  - Action: Scheduling, organizing, and implementing a program to heighten parishioner's "full, active, & conscious" participation in the Mass (i.e., Mass-focused homilies 4x a year, with corresponding content in the bulletin, Parish website & via social media, after Mass reception / prayer).

- **Goal 1.3: Create a Welcoming Commission to invite parishioners to parish celebrations, events and ministries**

  - Action: WC is responsible for following up with new parishioners and school families (around registrations and sacramental preparation) and inviting them to parish events and ministries.

  - Action: WC helps recruit greeters to serve before and after all Masses, especially including St. Andrew School Students & Saint Andrew Religious Education Students.

  - Action: WC staffs welcome table during each Mass (marked with signs) to share info about upcoming opportunities and events.

  - Action: Create new family mentor program where a family that is active in parish life is paired up with a new school family or one not active to welcome them throughout the year and to build unity.

- **Goal 1.4: Create a Stewardship Committee which, in collaboration with the existing Finance Committee, promotes stewardship in the wider parish community.**

  - Action: Providing a morning of reflection program to be attended by all Finance Council members – yearly.

  - Action: Spending 15 minutes of each finance council meeting on mission; 2 year program implemented.

  - Action: Implementing “Stewardship Sunday” 4x a year; with emphasis on the theme of giving referenced in preaching, petitions, music, bulletin, announcements, layman speaking.

  - Action: Finance council member speaks at Stewardship Sunday about mission and finance (1x a year).

Objective 2:
Create points of communication through which our community becomes more informed & connected

- **Goal 2.1: Enhance communication with improvements to our bulletin, website and social media pages and by establishing a regular e-newsletter and putting up new signage**
    - Action: Development of page on parish website giving information about events and programs – including contacts and dates.
    - Action: Development of an app that shares information about events and programs that will include contacts and dates.
    - Action: Use social media to connect the parish community with what is happening with various groups (events & programs)

Objective 3:

Empower and prepare parishioners to engage more fully, individually and in community, on their journey of discipleship

MISSIONARY SPIRIT

- **Goal 3.1: Establish programs that help us to discern our gifts**
  - Action: Offering programs (eg., Called and Gifted) to help parishioners identify missionary talents and learn how to use those talents in the service of Christ

- **Goal 3.2: Create programs that enable us to share our faith with others**
  - Action: Providing a ministry fair / table periodically after Mass, and at most-well attended Church events (i.e, Fish Fry, Wearin' the Green, etc).
  - Action: Developing evangelization training on how to share one's faith with others.
  - Action: Creating conversation starters on faith topics and distribute at parish events to catalyze conversations and sharing.

- **Goal 3.3: Expand opportunities for service**
  - Action: Organize river cleanup day
  - Action: Create intergenerational service days

CATECHESIS

- **Goal 3.4: Enrich Adult Formation Opportunities**
  - Action: Establish parenting support groups with speakers on faith topics, leveraging Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth program of the Archdiocese of Chicago.
    - Action: "One Book, One Saint Andrew" – choose a book/movie for the entire community to read/watch and create multiple discussion group options including online forums, hosted events at parishioners' homes, conversations at Lenten Fish Fry (table tents), & other Parish gatherings.
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  - Action: Build upon the Teen Club Ski Trip and provide opportunities for Teens / young adults

PRAYER & WORSHIP

• Goal 3.5: Develop programs through which we learn and practice to pray

- Action: Providing seasonal evening prayer programs (e.g., Advent & Lent)
- Action: Providing a Prayer & Worship Section of the Bulletin with prayer-focused content. Extend bulletin publishing to include website and other forms of communication.
- Action: Cultivating a prayer network of parishioners that will provide personal, individual invitations to prayer to other parishioners.
- Action: Establishing the "Saint Andrew Pray for Us" program encouraging students to pray for the intentions of parishioners at home with their family.
- Action: Creation of a Saint Andrew School Prayer to be said prior to all school events (e.g., concerts and games). School may be developed by outgoing 8th grade as their gift to the community.
- Action: Organizing pilgrimages to local destinations
- Action: Praying the Rosary by School / Religious Education students

COMMUNIO

• Goal 3.6: Expand opportunities for community building

- Action: Establishing a summer event connecting the diverse population of the community (e.g., Summer Fest)
- Action**:** Create more opportunities to utilize the Gym for the Community**:**
  - Family Movie Nights 2x a year
  - Open Gym Nights 2x a year
  - Special Event 1x a year (e.g, yoga)