

Dear Parishioners,

I want to share some good news with you. The St. Peter Claver Pastoral Council has compiled a draft of our new three year strategic plan, which will serve to guide our decision making through the year 2012. This plan was developed over many months with help from parishioners skilled in strategic planning.

Initially the Council engaged in an examination of the mission of our parish. This process resulted in a Parish Values Statement, Vision Statement and an updated Parish Mission Statement. The next step, a SWOT analysis, was performed with the purpose of examining the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats pertaining to our existing ministries. These ministries fall under the main categories of Stewardship/Administration, Family Life, Religious Education, Liturgical, Community Life/Social Justice, Evangelization and Pastoral Care. Many large group and small group discussions ensued and the data was reviewed and organized.

I invite you to review our plan and to respond to us via an online survey that will be emailed to you, or the survey can be picked up in the back of the church. This is your opportunity to engage yourselves anew in the future of our parish. Please respond by the end of November to ensure that your input will be included in the process.

On behalf of the parish, I thank the Pastoral Council and all involved in this process for their diligent work. Now, we look to the future with great hope and joy as we strive to become a more vibrant and effective parish, called to be the “Body of Christ” in our world today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Jim Leary".

Fr. Jim Leary

Pastor

*St. Peter Claver
Pastoral Council*

Strategic Plan



2010-2012

- Over the past year the Pastoral Council has been working on a strategic plan for the next three years.
- The Council assessed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and obstacles to develop a plan for continued vibrant parish ministry.
- This document outlines in summary form our ministry goals for the next three years.

Mission Statement

“Speak to them with your hands before you speak to them with your lips.”

By being faithful to the mission given to each one of us in our baptism, we, the people of St. Peter Claver parish, try to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by imitating the example of our patron, St. Peter Claver:

- To respond actively and generously to the Commandments of the gospel within and beyond our parish family.
- To strive to become a united and prayerful parish through a deeper understanding of and an active participation in the liturgy and in our faith.
- To provide faith-based educational opportunities for parishioners of all ages.

We will encourage and support parishioners to share their time, talents, and resources to work together in building the kingdom of God – a kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

Revised 1-14-09

Vision Statement

Saint Peter Claver Church is an inclusive and welcoming community dedicated to providing excellent leadership in every area of parish life.

In response to our Baptism, we share time, talents, and resources; engaging, educating, and reaching out in love to meet the needs of our parishioners and the greater community through our ministries.

Saint Peter Claver Church is a joyful community responsive to the signs of the times.

Values

- A **welcoming** congregation known for our hospitality.
- The **church of home and family** as the basic foundation of the church.
- Embracing the **diversity** of all God's people.
- **Stewardship** of time, talents, and treasures of the Holy Spirit.
- **Compassion** for all God's children.
- **Healing** a broken church and world through ministry, dialogue, prayer, forgiveness, and the celebration of the sacraments.
- Practicing **collaboration** within our parish and with all other parishes and Christian churches and other faith groups within our community.
- **Responsive** to Catholic and Christian core values.
- A community committed to living our **faith**.

Ministry Organization

Administration	Family Life	Religious Education	Liturgical	Community Life Social Justice	Evangelization	Pastoral Care
Pastoral Council Finance Council Stewardship Cmt. Building Cmt. Communication	Hospitality Kitchen Ministry Knights of Columbus Parish Socials Play group *SPCYA Fellowship &Service	Teachers for Grades 1-8 Sacramental Prep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism • 1st Rec. • 1st Euch. Confirmation - 9/10 Youth Ministry Adult Ed Bible Study *WHCAE	Altar servers *Art & Environment Children's Liturgy Eucharistic Min. Greeters Lectors Music Ministry Sacristans Ushers	Advent Giving Tree Blood Mobile Christmas Baskets Habitat for Humanity Haitian Medical Min. Outreach Ministry Soup Kitchens: House of Bread St. Elizabeth House Tabor House Mission Trips	R.C.I.A.	*HEAL Ministry to the Sick/Visitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing homes • homebound Prayer Shawl Min. Prayer Chain Retreats

*SPCYA – St. Peter Claver Young Adults group (ages 20 - 35)

*Art & Environment – Preparing the church for Celebrations (Christmas, Easter, etc...), decorations, and flower arrangements.

* WHCAE – West Hartford Collaborative Adult Enrichment team

* HEAL – Help, Encouragement And Love

* RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Administration

“I am the Good Shepherd.”

John 10:11

Our Administrative ministries are concerned with the overall workings of the parish organization. They articulate a parish vision, mission, and values, and are concerned with short and long range planning.

Ministries

- Pastoral Council
- Finance Council
- Stewardship Committee
- Building Committee
- Communication

Goals

- Improve and increase use of internal and external communications
- Obtain and update email addresses of all parishioners
- Encourage active participation in the parish
- Improve and expand handicap needs regarding parking

Family Life Ministries

“Love one another as I have loved you”

Genesis 13:18

Our Family life Ministries are concerned with supporting our families by providing a growing sense of community among our parishioners. They coordinate family oriented activities and social events

Ministries

- Hospitality
- Kitchen Ministry
- Knights of Columbus
- Parish Socials
- Playgroup
- SPCYA (young adults)
- Fellowship and Service

Goals

- Continue to embrace and involve members of the church through community activities and ministries
- Support the family life of members
- Encourage and support the continued development of Christian life in our parish

Religious Education

“In the beginning was the Word.”

John 1:1

Our Religious Education ministries seek to provide a strong formation of our Catholic faith for people of all ages.

Ministries

- Teaching ministry
- Sacramental Initiation
- Adult Education and Bible Study

Goals

- Develop a High School Youth ministry program
- Continued development of the *WHCAE.
- Encourage parents' responsibility for and involvement in the Religious Education of their children.

*WHCAE the collaborative West Hartford Catholic Adult Enrichment team.

Liturgical

“I am the bread of life.”

John 6:34

Our Liturgical ministries are at the center of parish life, as all other ministries flow out of our weekly celebration of the Eucharist.

Ministries

- Altar Servers
- Designers of worship environment
- Adult leaders of Children’s Liturgy
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Greeters
- Lectors
- Music Ministry
- Sacristans & Ushers

Goals

- Invite a liturgist to lead an evening exploring the elements of liturgy
- Improve scheduling, training and coordination of liturgical ministers
- Continue to develop altar server training
- Develop opportunities for creative use of prayer services.

Community Life/Social Justice

“Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

Micha 6:8

Our Community Life /Social Justice ministries bring the gospel message to life through outreach efforts to the poor and marginalized.

Ministries

- Advent Giving Tree
- Blood Mobile
- Christmas Baskets
- Habitat for Humanity
- Haitian Medical Ministry
- Outreach ministry
- Soup Kitchens: House of Bread, St. Elizabeth House, Tabor house.

Goals

- Encourage parishioners' participation in the wide variety of service and social justice opportunities in the parish.
- Support families who are in financial crisis.
- Cooperate with other churches and faith groups in promoting social justice.

Evangelization

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.”

Matt 4:19

Our Evangelization ministries seek to spread the “good news” of the risen Christ.

Ministries

- RCIA

Goals

- Develop a ministry to inactive Catholics
- Encourage a parish spirit that welcomes others.

Pastoral Care

“I was sick and you visited me.”

Matt 25:36

Our Pastoral Care ministries provide encouragement and love to those suffering difficulties from illness or loss of loved ones.

Ministries

- HEAL - **H**elp, **E**ncourage **A**nd **L**ove Ministry to the sick in nursing homes and homebound
- Prayer Shawl ministry
- Prayer chain
- Retreats

Goals

- Identify people in need of pastoral care
- Identify resources in parish community to help with HEAL ministry.

If you wish to see the detailed strategic plan that has been summarized here please call click on the link on the home page.