

HARVESTERS IN CHRIST

Our Parish Vision

To plant, cultivate and harvest fruitful encounters with the real presence of Jesus Christ.

Our Parish Purpose

The Lord is not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire. (1Kings 19:11-13) The quiet presence of the Lord is always with us and He communicates in silence, in His Word, and in His Eucharistic sharing of Himself. St. Isidore Parish, consisting of the communities of Middleborough, Lakeville and Rochester, celebrates the ever-lovely presence of the Lord and seeks to infuse its joy into the greater gathering of the people of our parish so that the Real Presence of Jesus is more vividly and genuinely experienced. In the new evangelization we are not formulating a new mission - we are still following in the footsteps of our Lord who has gone ahead (Mark 16:7, Matthew 28:7) yet is also with us until the end of the ages. (Matthew 28:19-20)

The parish uses the strength and vitality of our Catholic faith to encourage, invigorate and sustain; so that those committed at the time of their Baptism, those seeking reaffirmation, those entering anew find a united community dedicated at its core and in its actions to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our Parish Values

JOY: Jesus came to bring us joy and that our joy may be complete. Through the love of Christ we are becoming beacons of joy and light. God's love offers healing and hope to all persons who sit in darkness and death's shadow. (Luke 1:78-79) The light of Christ invites us to approach his mercy so that we might share in the completeness of his joy. (John 15:11) The churches of our parish offer a respectful and hospitable home where we deepen our reverence for God's actions in our lives and we grow in love for one another.

- A. We joyfully celebrate God's friendship and mercy through participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, service to others, and involvement in parish activities and ministries.
- B. "How good to celebrate our God in song; how sweet to give fitting praise." Psalm 147:1
We elevate the integral role of music in our Masses and other celebrations and encourage full and heartfelt singing at all Masses and celebrations.

RESPECT: As we join our three town communities to create a unified parish, we are mindful that we will flourish best in an environment where respect and trust has been established. (1 Peter 2:17) Each community brings to the parish its unique perspective and through the sharing of our experiences we will grow stronger and more vibrant in our faith. (Romans 12:6)

- A. The Parish Staff, Parish Finance Council and Parish Pastoral Council dedicate their efforts to ensure that the needs and concerns of the parish are addressed.
- B. We encourage one another to celebrate our faith by attending Mass and other services in the churches of the parish.

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FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY: We will open wide our doors, our hearts and our minds to all those who cross our path. Through word, sacrament and service we will actively inform those interested in knowing more by growing in fellowship with each other. We extend our hands, voices, and hearts to all people to encourage others to seek the face and the friendship of God, in a missionary spirit of charity, in the light of Christ. (John 13:34-35, Matthew 28:19)

- A. We welcome all to gather and worship with us- including those with disabilities, those in need, those who have sinned, and all those in need of Christ's love.
- B. We exchange greetings and initiate conversations when encountering others.
- C. We build up the Body of Christ by avoiding and resisting opportunities to gossip or disparage others
- D. We are resolved to approach interpersonal situations, particularly misunderstandings, with kindness and patience - not judgment

CLEAR AND CONSISTENT COMMUNICATIONS: We strive to provide clear and consistent communications to parishioners in all communities. Through spoken word, print and digital media we emulate St. Paul when he says to the Colossians: "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you should respond to each one." (Colossians 4:6)

- A. Clergy, Staff and Ministry Leaders work together to plan and communicate parish happenings and opportunities.
- B. Utilizing the weekly bulletin, pulpit announcements, flyers and posters, social media, parish website and email/text-list parishioners are informed of opportunities to learn, serve, pray, worship, and socialize in Christian fellowship.
- C. Parishioners and Ministry Leaders communicate issues with staff in a timely fashion so that adequate response, recourse and support may be given.

Our Parish Priorities for 2021-2026

Building upon the two previous versions of our pastoral plan for the next five years: the priests, deacons, lay staff, and parishioners of St. Isidore Parish will focus on the following three pastoral priorities and associated goals in order to enliven the vision of *Disciples in Mission* and foster the New Pentecost in our local parish.

PRIORITY: CREATING JOYFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST

St. Isidore Parish recognizes true joy is found in Christ-centered encounters. Personal encounters with the living Christ, through Word, Sacrament, prayer and community are sources of holy joy. We will celebrate our joy by demonstrating to others our commitment to Christ through our actions and words with the greater community at large.

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- A. **Goal:** Create and foster good liturgical practices across all three communities to improve quality and consistency of weekend liturgies.
- i. Invite parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, Altar Servers, Greeters, Musicians and Sacristans
 - ii. Provide adequate training, support and formation for those in liturgical ministries
- B. **Goal:** Establish Sunday Family Liturgies in the parish
- i. Focus on family centered liturgies incorporating the Lectionary for Children and homilies that interact with children,
 - ii. Use liturgical music that is child and teen friendly, and incorporate Eucharistic Prayers for Children.
 - iii. Many of the liturgies will correlate with Generations of Faith festival themes
- C. **Goal:** The parish will offer 2-4 youth and young adult faith sharing and fellowship opportunities.
- i. Form a parish team to look for faith sharing and fellowship opportunities for youth.
 - ii. Plan social and faith building events to bring youth together in Christ
 - iii. Establish a Young Adult Ministry Team
 - iv. Establish a Young Adult Group in the parish to meet periodically for prayer and fellowship.
- D. **Goal:** Establish a Men's Discussion Group (MDG) and a Women's Discussion Group (WDG)
- E. **Goal:** Establish a Senior Club

PRIORITY- OPENING WIDE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

We are committed to opening wide our own hearts to Christ working within us to accept His will and become better disciples. Through our own transformation, others will see Christ in us and be inspired to open their hearts as well to His loving message of hope and salvation. In the quest to make disciples of all nations we also open up our minds as we share the why and the wisdom of our catechism and magisterium through all that we do.

- A. **Goal:** One to one missionary discipleship and witness training for 200-300 parishioners.
- i. Workshops to be held 2-4 times/year
 - ii. Form a Parish Witness Team to recruit potential witnesses and to mentor and support new witnesses.
- B. **Goal:** Parish members will provide God's comfort and care through participating in a volunteer opportunity by.
- i. Form Bereavement ministry to bring Christ to those who grieve.
 - ii. Form a Ministry to support those with addictions and their families

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- iii. Train and support those who serve Nursing Homes and the Homebound in how to be evangelizers and disciples in Christ
- C. **Goal:** Provide catechetical and spiritual formation to both parishioners and ministry volunteers so that they may fully appreciate our faith and appreciate what it means to take a deeper ownership of faith and service.
- i. Via bulletin, digital media and faith formation opportunities assist parishioners with faith questions and concerns across the ages and stages of their lives.
 - ii. Through a variety of methods provide catechesis to parishioners on liturgical practices so that they may more actively participate in prayer and worship
 - iii. Provide opportunities for catechesis and spiritual support to ministry leaders and volunteers so that they may fully understand and undertake the work of our Lord.

PRIORITY- HEARING HIS VOICE

Christ calls each of us to Himself. Through Christ's unique and individual call, each of us contribute to the body of Christ through our vocation. St. Isidore Parish embraces this calling through personal and purposeful celebrations with intention of creating discerning disciples.

- A. **Goal:** Recruit and support a parish Vocations Team.
- i. Provide mentoring and support for men in discernment for the diocesan priesthood, religious orders, permanent diaconate and women in discernment for religious life.
 - ii. The Vocations Team will sponsor a vocations' week program. This program will consist of witness talks from seminarians, religious, married couples and celibate singles.
 - iii. Clergy will extend invitations to at least three men to the St. Andrew's Dinners each year.
 - iv. Clergy and staff will extend invitations to women to vocation events to the sisterhood.

Parish Foundational Ministries

While focusing on our priorities, we will continue to attend to the areas of ministry that are ongoing in our parish. These areas include: **Evangelization, Religious Education & Faith Formation, Active Prayer & Sacramental Life, Apostolic and Charitable Activities, and Governance.** The Parish Foundational Ministries will continue to grow and evolve always in keeping with the pastoral plan's vision.

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