



CATHEDRAL of the
MOST SACRED HEART
of JESUS

STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2028





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@SacredHeartCathedralKnoxville

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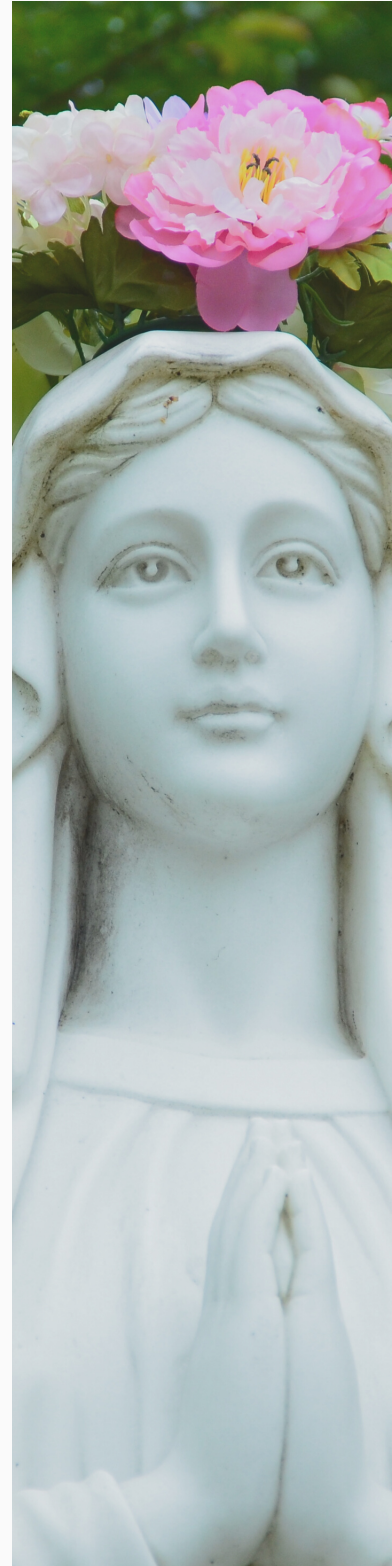
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

More fully live our call to serve God by loving our neighbor and upholding the dignity of every person.

STEWARDSHIP

Inspire a culture of giving, so that, we can more fully live out our Gospel promise to serve one another as a parish.

www.shcathedral.org





ABOUT US

The Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is a vibrant and growing parish that is highly diversified in ethnic mix, age, and social economics. There are over 2,600 registered families with approximately 7,800 members.



WHAT WE DO _____

Everything we do as Catholics begins in worship. It is our worship that leads us to action in our community and world..... Consider your passions and discover ways to use your time to impact those at the Cathedral.

COMMUNITY

Strengthen fellowship among our diverse parishioners and draw others to Christ through the practice of our Catholic faith and culture.

Objective 1 – Build fellowship around Mass.

- Increase the number of parishioners attending Mass.
- Build a culture of invitation to welcome others to Mass.
- Establish pew captains to create a more welcoming environment at Mass.
- Improve utilization of the children's liturgy and the nursery facilities.
- Increase opportunities to participate in Mass and devotions virtually for children and adults.

Objective 2 – Draw together our multicultural parish in a way that builds fellowship and celebrates diversity.

- Launch an annual parish multicultural food festival.
- Promote parish-wide celebration of Church feast days that honor the diverse cultures within our community.
- Enhance programs such as English-language-learner and citizenship classes that help to build unity and understanding.
- Establish new programs that build bridges between parishioners with different languages and cultures.



SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II

"Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence."

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COMMUNITY CONTINUED

Objective 3 – Enhance parish life through social activities that facilitate fellowship.

- Increase participation in parish social activities.
- Identify parishioners to spearhead new and existing social activities.
- Create opportunities for fellowship after Mass.
- Assemble committee to assess social activities quarterly to ensure they are best serving the needs of the parish.
- Institute annual state of the Cathedral event to draw all parishioners together in fellowship.

Objective 4 – Ensure that our ministries effectively serve the diverse needs of our parishioners.

- Reestablish Stephan Ministry to reach out to parishioners who feel excluded, are grieving, or are ill.
- Establish a youth ministry that draws together all elementary, middle, and high school students in our parish regardless of where they attend school.
- Revitalize existing ministries to engage all demographic groups within the parish fully.
- Utilize the divorce ministry to reach out to and welcome separated and divorced parishioners.



STEP 1

EVANGELIZATION

Strengthen parishioners' relationships with Christ to instill in them a desire to spread the Gospel throughout our community.

Objective 1 – Enable parishioners to more fully encounter Christ through the celebration of Mass so that their zeal may draw others into that celebration.

- Encourage spiritual preparation before the celebration of Mass.
- Continue to improve worship aids both online and in print.
- Enhance children's Sunday liturgy so that our young parishioners encounter Christ in a most enriching way for them.
- Use the spiritual architecture of the Cathedral for kindling a love for the faith and traditions of the Church.
- Improve training and recruitment of liturgical ministers.
- Recruit and equip docents to evangelize while leading tours of the Cathedral.

STEP 02

Objective 2 – Stoke the light of Christ within all parishioners.

- Provide parishioners with tools to enhance their daily prayer life.
- Create more opportunities for parishioners to walk together on their spiritual journeys.
- Identify ways to enhance annual parish-wide retreats.
- Foster evangelization leaders in the parish.
- Equip all parishioners for evangelization.

STEP 03

Objective 3 – Bring the Good News of Christ to those not active in their faith journey.

- Reengage with Catholics who have fallen away from the faith.
- Continue implementing social activities that appeal to the entire community and create opportunities for non-Catholics to encounter Christ.
- Identify new ways to share our Catholic faith with the greater Knoxville community.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

MATTHEW 28:19-20

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

**"What really matters in life is that we are loved by Christ and that we love Him in return."
-St. John Paul II**

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FAITH FORMATION

We want to encourage each one of you with the words of Saint Paul to Timothy: “For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have... For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control... bear you share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God.” 2 Tim 1: 6-8



01

Enhance the spiritual life of parishioners to strengthen our Catholic faith.

Objective 1 – Embrace our celebration of Mass as the primary catechetical and evangelization moment.

- Help parishioners better understand the significance of Mass.
- Deepen spiritual participation in Mass.
- Create more opportunities for the laity to be involved in the celebration of Mass.

02

Objective 2 – On an annual basis, comprehensively evaluate existing Catechesis programs and identify areas in need of improvement for each of the following groups:

- Adults (30+)
- Young Adults (18-30)
- Youth (11-18)
- Children (5-10)
- Nursery (infant to pre-K)

03

Objective 3 – Enhance awareness of and participation in Catholic devotions.

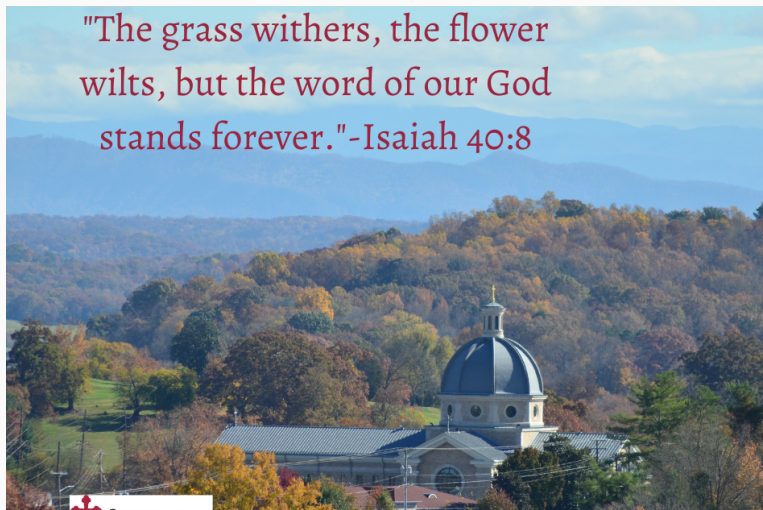
- Use the Mass to teach parishioners about our many Catholic devotions.
- Create more communal celebrations of our Catholic devotions.
- Foster opportunities for parishioners to share their Catholic devotions with others through small-group gatherings.
- Use technology to increase virtual access to Catholic devotions.



"The grass withers, the flower
wilts, but the word of our God
stands forever."-Isaiah 40:8

WORSHIP-TEACH-SERVE

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CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



Objective 1 – Use Mass to teach parishioners how to love our neighbor as God loves us.

- Make our celebration of Mass more welcoming to members of our community, regardless of their faith, socio-economic, racial, or cultural background.
- Encourage the laity to be more proactive in inviting guests to join in the celebration of Mass.
- Find more opportunities to use Mass to instruct parishioners in Catholic Social Teaching.

Objective 2 – Encourage all parishioners to be involved in existing parish outreach ministries.

- Evaluate the effectiveness of and level of parishioner involvement in existing outreach ministries.
- Enhance existing programs that empower parishioners to be more involved in outreach ministries.
- Foster devotional programs which connect biblical teachings to our various outreach ministries.



Objective 3 – Create more opportunities for parishioners to be involved in outreach ministries across the Diocese of Knoxville.

- Develop a relationship with another parish in the diocese to facilitate cooperative outreach ministries.
- Seek opportunities to partner with other faith traditions in common goals that uphold the dignity of all human life.
- Identify new programs that would empower parishioners to pursue the social justice mission of the Church.

Objective 4 – Protect all who come to our parish from any type of abuse.

- Create a committee of the laity to identify best practices to ensure the safety of all parishioners.
- Increase awareness of programs that empower parishioners to identify and protect each other from abuse.
- Create a mechanism by which parishioners can easily and safely report abuse to appropriate diocesan and civil authorities.





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STEWARDSHIP

To give back to God from all that we have received is an act of faith and generosity. Our response to God's blessings can become a blessing to others through the ministries of the parish.



Objective 1 – Inspire a hunger for giving of time, talent, and treasure through the celebration of Mass.

- Remind parishioners through the Mass how to emulate Christ's generosity.
- Institute quarterly testimonials on giving after Mass.
- Regularly pray for a heart for giving in the general intercessions.

Objective 2 – Provide additional information about parish financial resources.

- Provide quarterly reports to parishioners about the financial health of the parish.
- Include a financial update at the annual state of the Cathedral event.
- Establish alternative ways to inform parishioners about the financial health of the parish.

Objective 3 – Increase opportunities for traditional and non-traditional giving.

- Identify new ways for parishioners to share their resources and talents with the parish.
- Develop fundraisers and service opportunities directly tied to specific parish ministries.

Objective 4 – Enhance parishioners' understanding of the theology of stewardship.

- Find ways to highlight biblical teachings on stewardship.
- Identify stewardship leaders within the various parish communities.
- Institute an annual speaker series on the importance of stewardship.
- Begin youth and young adult programs focused on giving time, talent, and treasure.
- Annually host educational programs that teach biblical money principles for financial responsibility.



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