

October 1, 2022

Southern Deanery

GOAL 1 - To reach out and engage all people with the message of the Gospel.

Ask youth what they expect of the Church
Volunteers at schools who are willing to talk about a life of faith
Home visits to young families
Retreat weekends for young families
Get young children used to going to Church
Work more in high schools
Make parishioners with special needs feel welcome
Show young people the joy of Mass
Make the Mass more relevant to youth
Family Mass – geared to youth
Show by example
Create a full-time priest for the high schools to attract and engage youth
Personal contact
Witness
Education
Know the demographic
Relevance – why do we believe
Don't repeat the past
Enthusiasm, passion
Workshop for families and communities that are engaging for all
Fun and teachings
Hold events for the engaged
Communication, asking questions, and listening
Personal invitation – give invite to your neighbour
Ask the hard questions
Retreats (sponsor World Youth Day)
Media
Follow-up
Welcomers and visitor centres
Meaningful interaction
Feel engaged in the Church
Have a source for people to further themselves as Catholics and engage with the Church
Speaking
Engaging opportunities and sources for people like fairs and youth groups
Catechesis

Youth events such as dances
18-35 year old - events for that age group
Moms and tots' groups
Youth sports events
Online type programs with some gatherings in person
Parish family groups
Evening adult catechesis
Edge program for Teens
Movie night
Mothers' groups
Update modern website for parishes
Messiness of life
Broader offering of Mass times in areas
Special needs educators and programs in the parishes
Stress-free services
Have diapers, formulas, supplies to attract families and help
Church – open and welcoming
Ask the people what do we need to do to make the Church more vibrant and attractive
Child care
Chew on rosaries
Set up websites as interactive
Reach out face to face
Engage parents at schools
Parishes need a Communication Person
Stop either/or and move to both/and
Each parish needs a Communication Plan.
Small group meetings for people in homes
Reach out to people
Invite the community
Lay leadership in evangelization with neighbours and in the community
Pot luck dinner – bring people together
Go out to non-Catholics
More evangelization and education
Connect with teachers in separate schools
Priest needs to have a personal relationship
Seniors' home visit
Priest homilies in schools
Knight of Columbus basketball
Summer programs
Recreation leagues
Hockey night
Rosary and Adoration for youth

Priests should be at the door of the parish before and after Mass

Engage people who left – ask why they left and what do they need to come back

Community social once a month

Teen dance

BBQ at the church where everyone is welcome – including those who don't attend the parish

Breakfast put on by Knights of Columbus and CWL

Youth Liturgy once per month

Youth as lectors

GOAL 2 - To be an inviting and welcoming Church that fosters community.

Appoint hospitality ministers
Ushers
Welcome and information at the parish entrance
Invites to social events
Information online
Host a monthly social
Appreciation Night dinners
Prayer circles
Send “thank you” cards and “Welcome” cards
Offer Masses
Actions of tolerance especially toward children
Children’s Liturgy
Social for parishioners
Ushers to be more welcoming
Parishes that are more successful to share best practices
Reach out to community
Children greeters (give the children more responsibility)
Pastor to have a relationship, to make calls in person, to be more open and allowing parishioners to know him
Celebrate the parish’s Saint or Feast day
Parish socials
Coffee Sundays
Ushers to welcome people
Better homilies
Invest in music ministry
Youth choirs
Warm church and cushions for seniors
Air conditioning
Mission work – go out and invite
We care and we want people to join us at church
Good audio system (Bluetooth audio that connects to hearing aids)
Ministry to the deaf
Ministry for mental health and drug problems
Bible stories with laypeople
Grief ministry
Divorce ministry
Have a chapter of COURAGE – people with same sex attraction
Outdoor weddings
Cost of church wedding fees – too high
Offer church hall for free to people who get married in the Church

Meals and food related events
Family oriented events
Speakers
Events with child care
Communication Council (diverse to connect personally)
Greeter – further than just “hello”
Booths at a fair
Marketing plan for parish communities
“Nametag” Sundays
Welcomer
Look for talent to participate in the church re piano, singers
People have more of a role in participation
Inter-church communities
Celebrate
Strengthen RCIA
Phone program
Recruiting and engaging people for example – singers, musicians, communication, and marketing
Good parking
Good family ministry
Families should be greeters
Welcoming communities
Greet before Mass
Handout (colouring) for all children
Welcoming especially of young children
Follow up with people
Once a month breakfast
Coffee after Mass
Contact card in the pews

GOAL 3 - To offer well-prepared Liturgies that promote prayer and participation

Music liturgy – guitar and children’s choir

Priests speak to hard issues

Change of Mass times (encourages people to come out)

Planning to get participation

Ask people what they want to hear (adhering to the Gospel)

Encourage people to participate

Welcome and “thank you” to people for coming and participating

Priests should be more appreciative of the community participation in the church

Children bringing the gifts, altar serving, collecting, and ushering

Teaching Mass

Breakdown meaning of the Mass and prayers over time

Training for lectors on how to proclaim readings

Weekly altar server practices

Distribute roles and give everyone a job

Ask Catholic schools to have child volunteers

Social community help amongst the church

Rotating the sermon to reach different styles

How to apply the gospel to modern life

To have different people host talks, workshops, etc.

Have prayers of the faithful address current events

Pray for those suffering (such as Ukrainians)

Have a Homily Hints Team to promote homilies that reach further

Children Mass to reach the younger generation

Give opportunities for parishioners

Homilies – reflection – apply the Gospel to their lives

Bible study – study the Readings of the following Sunday

Encourage to pre-read Mass Readings

Group to critique liturgy to improve

Suggestion Box – Usher encouraged on the website

Vatican II – study it as a parish

Have liturgy prepared by lay people = lay committee

Other liturgies offered in the parish – liturgy of the Word, etc.

Bulletin homilies written by laypeople

Bringing people to church (Ride-share)

Haircut and shower for the homeless at the church or parish hall

Liturgy Focus Group

Priest accessing local resources to assist in homilies

Take seriously and make preparations – lector read ahead – no complacency

Liturgical training

Working together – priest, music, decorative community, etc. = liturgical committee
Good homily
Preach till you get the spark
Good lectors with strong communication skills
Well-prepared homily
Training for readers and altar servers
Reverence emphasis
Old Testament and New Testament comparison
Program beyond RCIA
Choir with different languages
Integral part of liturgy – WELCOME
Lectors must be trained to read properly and preparation is necessary
Vatican II is the liturgy of the people
Music and choir – folk Masses that attract young people and are pertinent
Liturgy should be a learning experience and not entertainment
Eye contact necessary for homilist and lector

GOAL 4 - To be a Church engaged in ministry and mission.

Visiting the sick – Eucharistic ministers

Visiting new families

Blessing homes

Learn peoples' names – more inviting and more personable

Join community events such as downtown events during the year or the Christmas parade

Food banks – feeding the community

Hopes cradle – help new Moms

Society of St. Vincent de Paul – charity work to reach out to the community

A universal love that is mission engaged

Promote CWL, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, etc.

Food bank – volunteers collect food

Food for school kids

Breakfast program – cooperation between the school board and the Church

Visit the sick and the disabled – take Communion to them

Lay ministry – second-hand stores

ProLife Chain

Passion for the Body and Blood of Christ

We should spend time reading scripture

Promote understanding of global issues

Promote understanding of aboriginal issues

Training

Ministry to local community in need – meals, blankets, etc.

Canned food drives frequently

Asking frequently and making needs known

Speakers from international missions or other parishes or local ministries at Mass

Time frame on ministries

Change ministries after a certain amount of time

Capitalize on the talents that are in the parish

Identify the gifts of the parish (Charism assessment)

Link the needs of the parish with parish strengths

Visit the sick

Ask people what their talent is, how it can be shared

Do a basic survey of talent of the parishioners

Conduct a needs assessment of what the parishioners want

Provide feedback and continuous improvement

Ongoing

Volunteers for social justice in tangible ways

Train youth to engage through choir, instruments, altar serving

Collaborate with social justice movements in the area and with other churches

What lay leadership is?

Workshop of classes in catechism and theology

Help people learn to teach

Night classes

Immigrants, talents, new people

New faces and new opportunities

Have skilled welcoming communities connect to new people and immigrants to what the Church has to offer

Online classes for those without transportation

Programs with schools to promote lay leadership

Welcoming committee to help get new people (example immigrants, new families, to get them engaged)

Social justice like refugees

Parish and ecumenical opportunities to engage

Parish groups like Circle of Friends

Those in need

Monthly blurb at Mass from the Social Justice representative

Development and Peace

Education around the Catholic Social Teachings

Empower people to make a difference

Difference between charity and social justice – support both the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Development and Peace

Prayers of the Faithful (reflect Catholic Social Teachings)

Volunteer youth program – 40 hours of service – help church cleaning, yard work

Teach young ones as altar servers to create an attitude of service in the church

Missions to foreign countries for youth

Training and mentorship to continue succession of programs

Knights of Columbus and CWL – ask schools for volunteers to do charity work in the community

Young people want a challenge

Get speakers (missionaries) to talk about Catholic Social Teachings

GOAL 5 - To engage in responsible stewardship of God's gifts for the present and future.

Regular synodal gatherings in our parish
Organize a network of personal contacts like a phone tree
Spiritual book studies
Education of adults
Diocesan plan for World Youth Day
Close churches
Pre-authorization of payments to parishes
Eliminate debt and make sure we are fiscally responsible
Ways of measuring metrics
Identify objectives that have to be met in both finances and mission
Priests with Councils to identify the needs and objectives of the parish
Address the spiritual needs of older parishioners
Identify the needs and assess if we are meeting those needs or change what we are doing
Designated greeters after Mass and meet new families
Transparency on where funds are going and financial goals (example – raising money for restoration)
Monthly breakdown of money that has been donated
Describe how much money has been contributed and the impact of that money to inspire more generosity if they know where the money is going
Groups share through newsletter, bulletins, and emails
How you can help
Parish Finance Committees to advise Pastors and a Property Committee
Subsidize youth events for kids who cannot attend
Pay positions like youth minister or even lay people going to schools to engage with the youth
Engage the youth
Team building for volunteers and Pastors filling in the gap so the team is strong
As a steward so many precious gifts to nurture
Stewardship means kind and non judgemental
Financially responsible
Open to others – love the person and hate the sin
Educate people if you have the talent
Programs for youth are very important – draw them in, engage
How do you eat an elephant – one bit at a time – we need to do the little things that add up to the big picture
Identify the need or what we want to promote as Catholics – core beliefs
Church should inform and energize the people in our Church to be active about climate change and the needs of the world
Reduce the number of parishes; have priests share a few parishes

Have lay volunteers visiting senior and care homes
Involve parishioners in the decisions around closing the parish
Weekly or bi-weekly Mass at priest sharing parishes
Committees of lay people

GOAL 6 - To be a Church that nurtures reconciliation, healing and mercy.

Welcome the divorced

Welcome the separated

Welcome the LGBTQ...

No judgement – what would Jesus do?

Educate ourselves around First Nations peoples and their issues

Grief ministries

Reach out to all who need reconciliation

Those who grieve can comfort others

Church must face all the good we can share

Reconciliation is a tool of healing and mercy that has been popular lately but we need to extend the invitation.

Confessional rooms aren't up to par

In the bulletin, list the times for Confessionals.

Address issues within the Church – sex scandals, truth and reconciliation, gay community

Empathy and understanding

Gay, lesbian, bisexual – how do we address the people as catholic Christians?

Education – top down – guidance on Church teachings and how to apply Church to messy life, gay people, divorced people

Four steps

1. Listen
2. Make a plan
3. Then talk
4. Apologize

Feedback from parishioners

Experience from parents about sacramental preparation

Ongoing feedback

Have to listen to everyone – what was their experience in the pew; what was their welcoming like entering the church; what are their struggles, joys, etc.

Opportunity for laypeople to get together from different parishes to share ideas on what works for them

Develop methods to get constant input from all so their voice is heard

Promote confession and provide more opportunities

Open dialogue on criticisms – if nothing is said then nothing can be corrected

More often this dialogue of synodality so the Church can address current issues from a sense of humility, vulnerability and open arms – (for example – the Apology to the Indigenous Peoples

More meetings like this because if nothing is discussed from outside then nothing can be healed

Outside speakers

Discussion between the listening Church and other groups to help educate ourselves on other groups, cultures, traditions, and experiences

Circle of friends outreach ministry

Transparency and honesty

Pastor or community members reaching out to new or visiting people

Reaching out to First Nations and having Elders or Chiefs come to speak

Listening to victims about what they need for reconciliation

Be present and listen to victims