



St. Columba Catholic Church

Summary of our Next Generation Parish Envisioning Committee

Our Purpose Statement: To nurture a Christ-centered culture: growing our faith, strengthening our parish family, and serving the community.



Our Values: Family, Service, and Faith

Family

- We are a Christ-Centered community who support each other with faith and love.
- We will support one another in our times of spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.
- We will foster the family through social and educational activities, and sacramental celebrations.
- We will promote a prayer-filled, Christ-centered community with one another and for one another.

Service

- We care for each other by practicing discipleship that imitates Jesus the Servant (“Do what Christ does”).
- We will develop the practice of seeing Christ in our brothers and sisters.
- We will show Christ’s love by reaching out to our neighbors in the pew and community.
- We will practice the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Faith

- We are a people searching for a richer, deeper relationship with Christ by living according to His Word.
- We will commit to developing our prayer life.
- We will demonstrate acts of charity through parish activities.
- We will develop our relationship with the Word of God so that we can share the Gospel.

Our Priorities: Discipleship and Unification

Discipleship: Becoming Empowered to Evangelize Through Education

Definition: We are called to develop our faith so that we can strengthen to spread the Good News according to the Great Commission: *And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15)*

Rationale: Our personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation of everything. Without God we can do nothing, and “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). According to the Disciple Maker

Index results, in the past year, 59% of our parishioners have never attended a Catholic class, 52% never engaged in a Bible study or prayer group, 36% have never shared their personal witness, and 36% have never shared the story of Jesus. We will therefore work to evangelize and empower our parish through education.

- **Goal 1:** Create three tools/resources to complete per grade level, measured by the ten multiple-choice questions (or three projects) aligned to the targeted "tools" for that year -with an 80% target. (Sub goal: define process if we don't reach the target).
- **Goal 2:** Empower parishioners in their knowledge of Christ so that they can develop a closer relationship with God and be comfortable speaking about their faith.
- **Goal 3:** Evangelization: Faith-sharing in small groups - starting fall of 2025? Beginning with Fall 2025, 250 people by the end of the first year?
- **Goal 4:** Identify and communicate with parishioners which have stopped attending Mass ("Lost Sheep" Initiative).

Unification: Sharing our Unique Gifts to Build up the Kingdom of God

Definition: We are called to be "One Body with Many Parts" (1 Cor 12:12-17), a community unified in Christ: *So that there may be no division in the body, but that all the parts may have the same concern for one another* (1 Cor 12:25)

Rationale: We are One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church, therefore we will close the distance between the various groups within our parish, through openness, faith, and social activities. According to the survey, our parishioners indicated that relationships with other parishioners is important in keeping someone connected to the parish. However, 24% never participated or attended a parish social event, only 33% feel that the parish is connecting them with small faith-sharing groups and just 55% report the parish is providing a supportive community. Furthermore, only 44% agree that the parish is following up when an interest in becoming involved has been expressed.

- **Goal 1:** Create a team by which all organization and ministry leaders meet to strategize on joint recruitment opportunities, and unify service, schedules, and liturgies based on parish needs.
- **Goal 2:** Utilize a team focused on providing joyful, enthusiastic gatherings and social opportunities, incorporating team building to grow unity with one another.
- **Goal 3:** Strengthen and develop a closer parish family with specific outreach programs:
 - 1) Meet parishioner needs (e.g., funeral luncheons, meals/support for the sick, new parents, grieving, the elderly)
 - 2) Welcome new parishioners
 - 3) Identify needs and social opportunities for parishioners which have been approached to come back to Mass ("Lost Sheep" Initiative, this intersects with Priority One, Goal 4)
- **Goal 4:** Develop and nurture a relationship with our Mission Church, Christ the King.