



**PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING  
FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

BE HIS. BE BUILT. BE SENT.

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## **PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

At the Parish of Christ the King, we expect God to transform lives. Over the course of the last three years, we have had a front-row seat witnessing His work in our parish through our ministerial offerings as we worked together to build the kingdom of God. Through service, prayer, catechesis, fellowship, the Sacraments, and more, our parish has provided countless opportunities to encounter Christ.

God has been abundantly good to us, and with these gifts comes the responsibility to continually refine and renew our efforts to pursue greatness for His glory.

Therefore, with input from parishioners, experts in ministry, strategic envisioning sessions, and discernment in prayer, we announce the beginning of a new five-year strategic plan for our parish.

Along with this plan is a renewed vision to give us a clear direction for the future. This vision is best captured in the phrase: Be His. Be Built. Be Sent.

While discerning the rich history of our parish and school community as well as the direction that we are going, it was evident that the Parish of Christ the King is a place and community that first and foremost belongs to Jesus Christ, that forms and builds parishioners with intentionality, and that sends parishioners out into the world to transform it.

### **Be His**

We are a Catholic parish devoted to Jesus Christ first. Everything we do is centered around our Catholic faith. We belong to Him and believe that our reliance on Him and relationship with Him are crucial to the fruitfulness of our mission.

### **Be Built**

Together, we pursue the greatness that God is calling us to. With docility, we allow God to form us, heal us, and transform us. God causes the growth, and we as a parish serve as co-laborers in that mission.

### **Be Sent**

Our ultimate goal is to prepare people for beyond the walls of our church. With intentionality and fervor, we give people the tools they need to be sent out into the world to transform it. Whether in their homes, families, communities, or workplaces, we hope to support our parishioners in living a radically transformative life that calls others into communion with God.

Together, let us be His, be built, and be sent on mission for the greater glory of God.

# Vision

The Parish of Christ the King and Marquette Catholic School seek to be a place of encounter, transformation, and mission with and for Jesus Christ - a place where all parishioners and students can live a life of holiness, foster Christian virtues, establish faith-based friendships, and be sent out into the world as true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Be His. Be Built. Be Sent.



# Mission

The Parish of Christ the King is a community where people authentically encounter Jesus Christ, are built as his disciples, and are sent out to transform the world.



## STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

### Priority 1: Sacramental Revival

*“The saving words and deeds of Jesus Christ are the foundation of what he would communicate in the Sacraments through the ministers of the Church. Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier. (USCCB)”*

The Bishops of the United States are calling for a three-year grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. They believe that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out on mission “for the life of the world.”

Through our participation in this nationwide initiative, we will have an intentional focus on catechesis on the Eucharist and the Holy Mass and practical ways of encountering Jesus in the Eucharist. Through this revival, we also hope to cultivate both an interior and exterior sacred space for the reception of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Additionally, with the understanding that the Sacraments are essential to our Catholic faith and that the way we prepare for the reception of those Sacraments is extremely important, we will be improving the preparation process for the Sacraments. For the sacraments of First Communion, First Reconciliation, and Baptism, we will be introducing a new family-based approach (Pathways Formation Suite). This program prioritizes family accompaniment, where parents play a critical role in the formation process, in tandem with traditional classroom instruction.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will launch a new approach utilizing small groups within the larger class setting and require more family participation throughout the year. Last, the Sacraments of Marriage and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will be reevaluated as we seek to provide better levels of hospitality and engagement as these sacraments serve as an entry point to the Church for many.

### Priority 2: Personal Relationship with Jesus

A personal relationship with Jesus is not only possible but *essential* for us in our lives as Christians. Our Lord loves us, and we were made to love Him in return. By spending time with Him every day in prayer, we get to know Him and His voice in our lives. We respond to His love for us through prayer, the cultivation of virtue, the rejection of sin, and by serving Him.

Over the next five years, we will help parishioners cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus, learn and practice how to pray, and dive deep into their relationship with Jesus.

### Priority 3: Serving Jesus in the Poor

*“And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:40)*

The Person of Jesus is truly present in the poor. Fueled by our love for Jesus, we will meet Him in the poor through direct service opportunities. Our parish has a heart for service, and over the next five years we will prioritize creating more formal infrastructure to support service opportunities. In addition to continuing mission trips for both the youth and parish (i.e. Guatemala Mission), we will institute Service Saturdays, a monthly community service morning spearheaded by rotating ministries and Marquette, and seek to both strengthen and create new partnerships with local nonprofits and agencies to expand our reach in the community.

### Priority 4: Clear Path to Discipleship

A disciple is someone who has had an encounter with Jesus Christ and has made the personal and conscious choice to follow Him. Sometimes after having that encounter, it may seem overwhelming to know what practical steps come next. Our goal as a parish is to offer a clear path to discipleship - to give opportunities to encounter the Lord, be transformed by Him and be sent out into the world to serve Him in your unique situation and with your particular gifts.

We will review, enhance, and fine-tune our ministerial offerings to ensure they are providing a clear path to discipleship for parishioners at every stage of their walk with Christ. This process will likely reaffirm the value and workings of our ministries, and for some ministries, bring about a refined focus and renewed energy.

Additionally, we will create new ministries and most notably two new parish-wide ministries--The Search and Foundations--that will serve as foundational classes along this path to discipleship.

### Priority 5: Whole-Person Formation

In order to help build up the people of our parish, we will develop a well-rounded, whole-person formation. Our hope is that people will find the parish a source of spiritual, personal, intellectual, and practical formation.

This will be accomplished through reevaluating current formation opportunities and adding new offerings in order to address all four pillars regularly. While spiritual formation will be the most prevalent and easy to identify, we will also address the other dimensions of our human experience and how faith is not mutually exclusive to the rest of our life. Through genuine community, scholarship and prayer, we will strive for whole-person formation.

## Priority 6: Family Focus

*"In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. For this reason, the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the Ecclesia domestica. It is in the bosom of the family that parents are "by word and example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. (CCC, 1656)."*

Over the next five years, we will prioritize the Domestic Church. We will strive to equip our families with resources, support, and knowledge to serve as the primary educators of the faith for their children. Along with Growing in Grace, our family ministry that launched in 2021, we will seek opportunities to create ministries geared toward all parish families and/or adapt existing ministries and events to ensure they are family-friendly.

Furthermore, our programs will help bring religious education into the homes of our families instead of only relying on the traditional classroom setting through the launch of the Pathways Formation Suite. Developed by Family and Faith Life Catholic Ministries, Pathways is a process of formation that seeks to meet families in their current situation, come alongside them, and lead them on a path home to Heaven. Through the use of beautifully packaged boxes, it provides families with resources that are sourced from the Word of God, Tradition, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, magisterial documents, the liturgical rites, the lives of the Saints, human experience, and years of ministry with families. It is marked by a spirit of accompaniment as families work with each other, with other families, and with mentors.

## Priority 7: Small Groups

Authentic community is important in our formation as disciples. That means we strive to be a parish full of high-functioning small groups. Through the training of new leaders and continual support of our current small groups, we aim to double the number of small groups in our parish over the next five years. With stated priority number four--"A Clear Path to Discipleship"--and the understanding that real transformation takes place once real relationships are formed, small groups must be abundant and effective as they will play a critical role in the formation process at our parish.

## Priority 8: Healing Ministries

At Christ the King, we are blessed to have a wide variety of healing ministries. In healing circles, it is often said, "Suffering that is not transformed is transmitted." Every experience of suffering that we have experienced that has not yet been redeemed or transformed by the love of Jesus Christ is passed on to those around us. And the pain, which we have buried, continues to affect us and others around us.

Through Jesus Christ, we can experience deep and profound healing and restoration. And that is exactly what we intend to do. We will renew our focus on our healing ministries by helping people recognize their need for healing and offer frequent opportunities for healing through Jesus. In addition to nurturing and emphasizing our existing healing ministries, we will launch a new healing ministry--one for those who have experienced a divorce. Additionally, new retreats will debut that focus on healing.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Over the course of the next five years, the initiatives and programs outlined in our plan will be strategically rolled out. Understanding that training and programmatic support are necessary for new endeavors, some will be visible immediately while others will not debut for a couple more years.

