

State of the Parish Presentation
Fr. David Martin, Pastor
November 9, 2016

When I arrived at Saint Luke in 2011, I found I had inherited a vibrant parish from my predecessors. My obligation as Pastor is to build on that heritage and continue to grow our community.

Early on I gathered the Parish Council and we took a parish survey to identify needs and dreams of the Saint Luke parishioners.

Our Parish Council Members are:

Alan Holmer (Chair), Kimberly Briggs, Rod Buck, Jerry Howard, Mike Lawler, Ann Marie Mack, Sally O'Dwyer, Mark Price, Mary Rippert and Bryce Weaver.

Based on the survey and the community support, in the past five years we have been able to offer some significant improvements and initiatives to our parish.

Improvements:

- New sound system in the sanctuary, narthex and Hall
- Additional Handicap parking spaces in the main parking lot
- New hymnals with Sunday readings
- Acolytes moved to a more prominent position near altar
- Bells added to consecration of the Eucharist
- Improved Safety & Security, including parking lot lights

Initiatives:

- Master Altar Servers Program
- Parish/Faith Community Nursing
- Lumen Christi Counseling
- Monthly Epistle
- Walking with Purpose
- Anthony Tambasco Evening Series
- Parish Community Christmas Party
- Parish Picnic

Six months ago I convened a Strategic Planning Committee made up of parish council members and staff. Our objective is to map my next four years in McLean until retirement.

The Committee and I have drafted a proposed Mission Statement for our community:

Love God, Love Neighbor, Nurture Disciples.

This statement comes to us directly from Scripture.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength;"

Deuteronomy 6:5 & Luke 10:27

and

Leviticus 19:18: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Jesus calls these the two greatest of the commandments in Matthew 22:37-39

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”

Jesus is saying this to his disciples. He is telling them what to do after he leaves them; by extension, that is also how he is telling us to live our lives.

When we are baptized, we become disciples of Christ. And yet our journey as disciples continues throughout our lives, supported by our parish.

We have selected five areas of parish life on which to focus. Our strategy is to enhance these areas to benefit our community as a whole. All the other equally vital ministries and programs will remain in place to continue their service.

The five areas of focus are:

- **Welcoming, Community & Parish Life**
- **Faith Formation**
- **Communication**
- **Facilities**
- **Finances**

I plan to go into much greater detail on these areas in the coming months through written and oral communication.

In brief:

We hope to improve the physical Welcome of the parish campus for both existing and new parishioners. We will continue to gather at parish events and I hope that ALL participate in building community among yourselves. It can be as simple as saying “hello” to someone you don’t know at Mass.

We will continue to offer more opportunities to deepen our faith and spirituality through our Faith Formation programs. This includes small faith groups, evening programs and Days of Reflection.

I am committed to continually improving our communication within the parish and expanding the methods with which we communicate.

Our need for space has become Critical. We seem to have run out of meeting space for groups and the question of a nursery has come up repeatedly. With the help of a Building Committee I have formed, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Council and survey responses, we will be assessing our current facilities and making plans for improvements and renovations.

As always, our Finance Committee, chaired by Rod Buck, will work very hard to continue oversight of all parish finance matters and create a fiscally responsible plan for improvements.

As the Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us:

No one can affect change and growth alone. We can work together to continue the good work of this parish and I thank you for all you are doing to support each others' discipleship.

God bless,

Fr. Dave