

**St. Teresa of Avila Parish**  
**Pastoral Plan**  
**2019 - 2022**



Dear Parishioners,

The Church is the community of those who are called to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus, who ratify that faith sacramentally, and who commit themselves thereby to membership and mission for the sake of the Kingdom of God in history. The Church is a special kind of community.

Christians are those who affirm, that the meaning and hope of human existence resides in Jesus of Nazareth, who God raised for our salvation.



I am grateful for the work of the Pastoral Council who with me have reflected on the Parish Mission Statement and by identifying the values and goals that flow from it have suggested some initiatives and tasks that form a Pastoral Plan for our Parish for the next three years.

It is my hope that this plan will help us to envision how to be a more vibrant parish. This is important because the parish is the assembly in which God's Word is proclaimed, the Eucharist is celebrated and we, as believers in Jesus, are united so we may become the agent of change for the betterment of the whole Church.

This Pastor Plan is published to make our parishioners aware of the many opportunities and responsibilities that are theirs as witnesses to the love of Christ in our age.

May all of us be open to God's love and fellowship. May the Holy Spirit help us to work together to serve God and each other.

In Christ Jesus,

*Father Jerry Wild*

## St. Teresa of Avila Mission

A Mission Statement emerges from a sense of identity of a person or institution. For Saint Teresa of Avila Parish it sets the foundation of our beliefs and how we carry out those beliefs in the lives we live. Our Mission Statement at STA is ***Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Make Disciples of Jesus.***

Our identity is expressed in the first part—Love God. Our Christian faith has retained the core of the Jewish faith that the Lord is our God, and alone is our god who we love with our heart, soul and intellect. To love that loving God with our heart also means to love with our intellect remembering God's deeds, especially his primary deed when God sent his Son into the world for our salvation. To love with our soul requires us to love with our emotions. Loving God with all of our strength includes emotional, intellectual and physical assets—with everything we do and have (e.g. time, money, gifts,...). This is important because it acknowledges the primacy of God and a response to the initiative of God creating us.

Love Your Neighbor is connected. We cannot love God without loving one's neighbor because the love of God is realized in a large part through one's love of neighbor. It binds together the life of worship and our daily conduct toward others. From the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila we understand that we are the salvation, the hands and feet of God. And we receive this mission after the Ascension of Jesus at Pentecost when He commissions the disciples to baptize followers into the faith in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Loving one another is the only way of knowing ourselves to be one of Jesus' disciples.

Make Disciples of Jesus is the God given mission for the Church. It is our calling to help some people make the transitional journey to be Christ-like. By making disciples we give light and hope to help our brothers and sisters to be intentional about their growth. It happens when believers meet around the Eucharist that Jesus has given us and around the Word of God nourishing us to spread the Word and be inspired to perform good deeds. The Holy Spirit is responsible for one's growth, but disciple makers help sustain this growth. Just as parents long to see their children reach their potential, disciple makers long for the world to see the impact of lives that are joined to Jesus.

The Book of Acts shows how the Holy Spirit turned the world upside down through the lives of the first disciples. Jesus is still looking for disciples. His ultimate goal is a conversion of mind and heart to be living in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's command has been given to us to grow in these aspects. Living out the mission statement means being the Church, which is being part of the faith community. To recognize our role as an active member of the church that acknowledges the lordship of Jesus, and ratifies our faith sacramentally by participation in the sacraments. To commit ourselves to membership and mission for the sake of the Kingdom of God in history. In addition to receiving the sacraments that Christ has given to us, a discipling relationship may focus on reflective and prayerful reading of the Bible, varieties of prayer, lifestyle choices, mentoring others in Christian service, stewardship, hospitality and witness to Christ.

## Parish Values

The Parish Values statements describe the core beliefs of the STA parish community and our members. They express those key values that characterize STA as a community and are in alignment with our mission—***Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Make Disciples of Jesus***. These values are the cornerstone of all that we do and strive to become as a parish community.

At STA, we identify with six key values that directly stem from the three branches of our mission.

### *Love God*

- To grow in a Christ-centered life through the sacraments, mutual encouragement and embracing each other as a parish family.
- To know, understand and practice our Catholic faith and traditions

### *Love Your Neighbor*

- To provide a welcoming parish for both visitors and parishioners
- To offer compassionate pastoral care and corporal works of mercy for parishioners and others

### *Make Disciples of Jesus*

- To call ourselves and others to Christian discipleship
- To build a community of gracious stewards through sharing of time, talent and treasures

These values are the guidelines by which we as individuals and as a parish grow in our faith lives and in our expression of our love for God. By living these values through daily actions, others will see the work of God in us and be encouraged to adopt similar Christian values.

## Parish Goals

From our values we drive goals to identify very tangible objectives that support the overall mission of the parish. And from those goals we identify specific activities that support achievement of the goals and the mission. Finally, we evaluate how well we are achieving these goals to help set priorities for the coming year. St. Teresa of Avila Parish has defined the following set of goals:

### *Love God:*

- Maintain existing opportunities to receive sacraments.
- STA will nurture worship and prayer through the liturgy and devotions.
- Offer spiritual growth and educational programs across all parishioner demographics.

### *Love Your Neighbor:*

- Provide fellowship opportunities outside of Mass that bring the parish together as a community.
- Enhance parish-wide communications.
- Grow current ministries in both people served and services provided.
- Provide services to meet spiritual and physical/material needs of parishioners and the community.

### *Make Disciples of Jesus:*

- Increase attendance at weekly Mass and strengthen active participation in the Parish.
- Promote discipleship through faith centered programs, initiatives and activities.
- Be open to evangelize to those who question their Catholic faith or who have stopped practicing.

## Initiatives

As a Pastoral Council, we have evaluated how well STA is achieving each of these goals and we are pleased with the long list of spiritual and corporal works of mercy our parish engages in. From the pastoral care in the liturgy and sacraments to the variety of religious education programs, to the parish mission events, to the outreach services to homebound parishioners in need, to the service ministries already in place—we serve God, the parish and our community in many ways. But God’s work is never complete and the opportunities to continue His work are endless. So we will identify a few areas every year where, together, we can make lasting advancement of the Parish Mission for the spiritual good of our parishioners and community. These initiatives will be published in additional communications. We seek and exhort the help, support and engagement of every parishioner in these efforts for the glory of God.

