

Assumption Catholic Parish, Walla Walla WA

Pastoral Plan 2023-2026



Assumption Catholic Parish

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April 9th, 2023
The Resurrection of the Lord

Dear Parishioners,

For several months now, we have been engaged in a project of pastoral planning. This project began by seeking input and receiving a lot of good participation and feedback from parishioners through listening sessions and surveys, conversations, and emails.

This feedback was compiled into a document that became the foundation for further reflection, prayer, conversation, and consultation with the pastoral council. The document of compiled feedback was also made available at the entrance of the church and online for all those who were interested. With the publication of this compiled information, I submitted a pastoral letter. This letter indicated what I had heard, drew attention to some points of focus or convergence, and sketched a path forward that would conclude with the creation of a pastoral plan.

The plan was drafted utilizing the same four categories found in the initial surveys we made available to all parishioners: Spiritual Life and Worship, Faith Formation, Buildings and Grounds, and Evangelization and Social Outreach. In each of the four areas two goals were selected. These goals are broad in nature. They are followed by strategies intended to show more specific ways to reach those goals.

On March 13th, 2023, the Assumption Pastoral Council unanimously recommended that the following plan be published. It is with great joy that I now present to you the 2023-2026 Pastoral Plan for Assumption Parish.



Rev. M. J. Nicks

Plan for the Four Areas of Our Parish Life

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND WORSHIP

GOAL I

To create opportunities that encourage a deeper understanding of the Mass and love of Christ in the Eucharist.

Strategy 1

Have the pastor develop a sermon series on the various parts and aspects of the Mass.

Strategy 2

Create additional opportunities to participate in the sacrifice of the Mass, including an exploration of the possibility of an earlier Sunday Mass time and/or additional daily Mass times throughout the week.

GOAL II

To foster a deeper spiritual life and sanctification of our Assumption community that complements our communal celebration of the Mass.

Strategy 1

Establish an annual, parish specific, Marian devotion, consecration, or novena.

Strategy 2

Emphasize the power and fruitfulness of Eucharistic adoration and encourage greater appreciation of the privilege we have of housing the tri-parish Blessed Sacrament chapel at Assumption.

Strategy 3

Develop a more robust communication plan utilizing various modes of communication (Flocknote, Email, social media, etc.) to enhance community awareness of opportunities to enrich the faith and encourage participation therein.

FAITH FORMATION

GOAL I

To create opportunities for whole parish faith formation that simultaneously deepens our knowledge of the faith while building our sense of community.

Strategy 1

Establish weekly or monthly adult faith-formation classes to be held before or after Sunday Mass, when they will be accessible to the greatest number of parishioners who are already gathered together.

Strategy 2

With the guidance of the pastoral council Assumption Parish, as a community, will “adopt” a digital resource, such as Fr. Mike Schmitz’s podcasts, “The “Bible in a Year” or “Catechism in a Year.” There will be monthly opportunities for gathering and discussion.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

GOAL I

To develop a master plan for the parish facilities, prioritizing faith formation and hospitality.

Strategy 1

Seek professional consultation on ways that our current space could be modified (or new spaces constructed) to address the following things.

- Meeting spaces for simultaneous multi-group activities.
- The use of multimedia in the hall and other appropriate spaces.
- Enhanced audio clarity in both church and hall.

Strategy 2

Create a comprehensive maintenance schedule for buildings and grounds.

EVANGELIZATION AND SOCIAL OUTREACH

GOAL I

To establish and implement a plan of outreach to parishioners who have fallen away from the practice of their faith.

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Strategy 1

Work with parish leaders to call all registered parishioners annually or biannually. These calls will be opportunities to ask if there are any particular prayer intentions people would like included at Mass or devotions, specific needs, or hopes for parish life.

Strategy 2

Send a pastoral letter to all parishioners several times a year with updates, events, and any other interesting, parish related news. Additionally, include an invitation and encouragement for those who have been away from the practice of their faith to consider joining, once again, in the life of the community.

GOAL II

As a community, through a process of prayer and discernment, to adopt one or two primary forms of service within our broader community as particular focal points of our parish outreach (e.g. St. Frances Cabrini, Catholic Charities, Birthright, Women's Shelter, Christian Aid Center, etc.).

Strategy 1

Use a parish-wide survey to determine if the parish, as a whole, would like to focus on specific areas of ministry. .