

## Pastoral Plan at Ascension

At the 60th Anniversary of Ascension Parish, we gave thanks to the Lord for our faith community and we have since continued our journey in response to the call to deepen our faith and service.

These two years we have offered various activities and ministries to grow and serve the community, such as Advent Gatherings, Retreats, Sunrise with Jesus, Alpha Course, Divine Mercy, Ministry to the Homebound, Hospitality Team, Young Adults, Parish Leadership Team, Liturgy Team, etc.. Our Mass attendance increased 9.7% in the October 2025 count compared to 2024. These are encouraging signs.

In addition, we have been blessed with a successful Sowing the Seeds of Faith capital campaign, achieving 128% of our goal so far, and we are still raising funds for the Terrace Project, which has nearly reached \$30,000.

### Missionary Disciples

Yet a parish is not solely about numbers. Genuine success is not just about increasing attendance, adding more activities, or achieving

balanced budgets; it is about personal transformations and engaged discipleship. Pope Francis has challenged us to become missionary disciples, leading more people to Christ. We do not limit ourselves to the question, "What do our members seek or need?" but also explore, "How can we reach out to those who are not at the table of the Lord?" This is what the Spiritual Renewal in the Pastoral Plan of our Diocese is about: our renewed faith and mission.

### Discipleship Pathway

To reach this goal, our parish establishes a discipleship pathway that integrates word, worship, and witness.

*Word:* To assist individuals in immersing themselves in the Gospel and experiencing the richness of our Catholic Faith.

*Worship:* To make Sunday Mass the highlight of the week, facilitating a personal encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and through prayer.

*Witness:* To inspire individuals to embody their faith in their daily lives, serving others and sharing the Good News.

This pathway engages all the faithful: youth, adults, parents, single individuals. This model of discipleship formation aligns with our Parish's pastoral goals: Worship, Family, and Youth and Young Adults.

### **Word, Worship, Witness**

The focus of every week in our Parish will be the Eucharist, especially the 11:00am Mass on Sunday, when we will make the liturgy more relevant to our youth and also their families. Children will also have more opportunities to be active and engaged in the liturgy (through interaction, service, etc.). This is where children and families learn from the word and worship, and are encouraged to be witnesses to the Lord. We will give them a weekly takeaway at Mass to help connect worship to daily life.

In addition, every month, we gather around 12:15pm in the parish hall for an hour and a half, right after the 11:00am Mass. These monthly gatherings include a communal meal, large-group presentations on a theme, and breakout sessions for different age groups. These intergenerational gatherings unite the parish community—from

children to seniors—for ongoing learning.

At each gathering, we will explore a specific theme. This year, from October 2026 to April 2027, we will focus on various themes inspired by the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. This aligns with the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, which runs from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, commemorating the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death (or Transitus) in 1226.

### **Learning from the Liturgy and from Saint Francis**

Starting in late September, as part of the ongoing Diocesan Liturgical Renewal, we will learn about the **Liturgy of the Word**. This will deepen our appreciation for the life-giving Word and enrich the meaning of the Eucharist. Consequently, the Sunday Mass will motivate us to live each day with purpose as missionary disciples. Particularly during the 11:00 am Sunday Mass, we will assist youth and families in relating the liturgy to their lives.

Furthermore, during our community Monthly Gatherings from October to April in the Year of Saint Francis, we

will draw lessons of Christian faith from his examples as follows.

October 4: **St Francis: His Life**

*Speaker:*

*Fr. Peter Eugenio, OFM Capuchin.*

November: Seeing God in All  
Creation

December: Embracing Humility  
& Poverty

January: Songs & Prayers

February: Vocations

March: Willingness to Suffer  
for Christ

April: Brotherhood and Peace.

Every month on a Sunday from 12:15pm to 1:45pm, we gather for a communal meal, learning, and discussions centered on a specific theme.

**We will need your assistance:**

facilitators, session assistants, meal helpers, setup and cleanup crew, communications, and more.