



## **St. Raymond Church: PROPOSED Pastoral Plan**

*Why have a Pastoral Plan?* As a Church Family we want to have a plan so that we know where we are going for the years to come. As in all areas of life, without a plan we can often remain stagnant and possibly even lose a sense of purpose and mission. A Pastoral Plan allows us to remain focused on being the community of faith, hope and love that the Gospel of Jesus Christ demands. Our Parish did not become the amazing Parish it is on its own, it happened through intentional planning. This Pastoral Plan continues that proud tradition and moves us forward with confidence and trust in God's Amazing Grace!

*How will the Pastoral Plan be used?* The Pastor, the Parish Staff, the School Community, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, the Liturgy Committee and all of the ministries in the Parish Family will use the Pastoral Plan to guide our work in the next three to five years. If this is our plan, than its vision guides the way we use our time, spend our money and how we serve one another and the larger community.

*What does it mean that we will have "a brand"?* In the years to come, when people say "St. Raymond Church" we want them to immediately think **St. Raymond Church: Where God is Glorified and His People Sanctified**. This "brand" or "slogan" will become a part of our language as a family, keep us focused in our ministry and be proudly written on t-shirts and bumper stickers! It will help keep us living as the people God needs us to be in our larger community.

*How was this developed?* Over the course of the last 18 months, Father Chris has been having regular conversations with the Parish Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Council and the Liturgy Committee to create this Pastoral Plan. These groups will continue to work with Father Chris in the weeks leading up to our Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> (9am to Noon) at which time the entire Parish Family will have the opportunity to offer their insights, thoughts and feelings about the Pastoral Plan and the future of our Parish Family.

*What exactly does it mean?* It is the hope of those who developed the plan, that it will mean the following:

- Where God is Glorified...by worship that is deliberate, by lively Stewardship and by a Caring Community
- Where His People are Sanctified...through Study of His Word and Teachings, through Sacraments and Lives of Prayer, and through Ministries and Intentional Living

*What will this “look like” in the regular week-to-week life of St. Raymond Church?* The answer to this question is up to all of us working together. It is hoped that it will look something like this:

- Where God is Glorified
  - By worship that is deliberate: which we believe includes Excellence in Music; Preaching that is Relevant to the lives of today’s Christian; and a feeling of welcome by all who come to this holy ground.
  - By lively Stewardship: which includes the belief that the life of the parish is “owned” by the people; there is on-going discernment of people’s gifts and how best to use them for the Church and others; and there is a commitment to sharing our time, talent and treasure and continuous development of leadership within ministries.
  - By a Caring Community where: the dignity of each person, as well as their culture and personal history, is recognized and appreciated as revealing the face of God; we welcome opportunities to be present to one another, sharing the joys and sorrows of life; and the people of our neighborhood, city and the larger world are part of our community as well and we are always seeking to invite them to walk the journey of faith with us.
- Where His People are Sanctified
  - Through Study of His Word and Teachings: as we offer regular opportunities for people of all ages to grow in the knowledge of our Catholic Faith; as we continue to sponsor an Elementary School to serve the needs of our young people in a Catholic environment of excellence; and where we’re not just readers of the Word, but doers of the Word!
  - Through Sacraments and Lives of Prayer: as the community celebrates the Sacraments from a desire for God’s grace; Daily Prayer is manifest in the culture of our parish; and there are regular opportunities to learn how to pray and pray with others (prayer groups, retreats, etc.).
  - Through Ministries and Intentional Living where: Strengthened by Word and Grace, we seek to serve those in need – within and outside the parish; we make the choice to live each day as a Catholic and allow our faith in Jesus and the teachings of His Church to guide our choices at home, at work and in daily life; and we realize our true home is in the glory of heaven and we work out our salvation day by day with God’s help.

*What happens next?* Read this plan a few times, think about it, bring it to prayer and maybe even talk about it with some others. Plan to be with us to discuss the Pastoral Plan on October 22<sup>nd</sup> (remind other members of the Parish Family) where the Plan will be amended and then approved by the community. In the months that follow all of the ministries of the Parish will seek “alignment” with the Pastoral Plan (How does this fit with what they are doing? How can we assist in making this plan come alive and be effective?). In the end, hopefully what happens is that God is glorified and His people are sanctified!