

St. Vivian Pastoral Covenant

In response to our parish mission statement and the priorities expressed by the leadership and members of our parish community, the Pastor and Pastoral Staff of St. Vivian Church have formulated these working principles and goals to orient our efforts over the coming year.

- 1) The St. Vivian community exists to lead its members to salvation in Jesus Christ. All other purposes within the community are secondary to that of deepening our love for and relationship with God—Father, Son and Spirit. The Liturgy, or the Mass, is both our primary prayer expression as a community and the vehicle that forms us as Catholic Christians.

We will undertake efforts to help our community better understand the structure of the Mass and use that understanding to enrich our experience of prayer at Mass.

We will continue to promote other forms of communal prayer such as the Monday Evening Prayers, monthly Exposition, Musical Rosary, and Stations of the Cross.

We are finalizing plans for the new parish sound system. We are presently selecting particular components that will perform adequately while aesthetically fitting within our worship space.

We are moving forward with plans install handrails in the sanctuary to provide greater access for all parishioners.

- 2) We take seriously the Church's mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do so most powerfully when our deeds match our words. Our commitment to live out Gospel values must impact choices we make regarding our approach to faith formation, to communal prayer, and to structuring our parish and its organizations.

We will promote quality programs and ministries that proclaim the Gospel and Gospel values. All ministries and groups within our parish share this as a mandate of our faith.

Leading people to a deeper or different type of encounter with God is a goal in everything that we do as a community. All ministries and groups within our parish share this as a mandate of our faith.

Our Education Commission and the Spiritual Life Committee (a subcommittee of the Education Commission) are charged with providing programs and particular opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

- 3) Catholics have been saddened in recent decades at the alarming trend of our Catholic youth turning away from the Church. Countering this trend is an announced priority for our parish.

Parish leaders have already taken steps to understand the reasons behind these trends. As a result:

- We are teaming up with the Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office to formulate ways to address this concern.
- We have learned that solutions must involve all members of our community, especially parents.
- We have learned that Catholic Schools and PSR programs can be effective supports in addressing these trends, but they are not the entire answer.

We are already testing new approaches and beginning new educational initiatives that are first steps in addressing these issues.

- 4) Our parish commitment to teach as Jesus did is expressed in our commitment to offering a Catholic education through our parish grade school. Our goal is to keep our school open and viable as long as it is financially possible.

We are presently involved in development and marketing initiatives to help maintain our school.

Our employees are committed to practicing good stewardship in order to maximize our resources.

We have finalized a plan with the company who will do the needed security work on the school. This will allow our school office staff to control who is admitted to the school throughout the school day and create a safer environment in our school.

- 5) We will maintain our commitment to and expand our understanding of Catholic social teachings.

We will continue to support the ministry of our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We will continue to support the AMOS Project.

We will continue our twinning relationship with St. Maria Goretti Parish in New Orleans.

We will continue to support the Archdiocesan special collections.

We are actively pursuing the construction of a handicap access ramp to make the rectory offices more accessible to our parishioners.

- 6) As a community committed to holistic Christian stewardship, we are encouraging our commissions, ministries and groups to articulate clear visions and set clear goals that will guide their actions as a group. By encouraging all our parish commissions, ministries and groups to do pastoral planning, it is our hope that our entire community may, as Grateful Believers, progress resolutely toward greater effectiveness in fulfilling our announced missions.