

Key Concepts Summary

Key Concept 1: Welcoming – How can we be a community that is known for welcoming all people?

Definition: People in the parish experience a connection to the community. They feel that the community is open and accepting for both new and existing members across all walks of life. Parishioners have full access to and feel comfortable in the space and with the people who are here. We have a level of hospitality that makes guests feel like friends and all feel like family.

Current Tactics:

- New Parishioner Welcome event
- Name Tags “Each is called by name”
- Hospitality
- Greeters
- We actively communicate and display “All are Welcome”

Questions:

- How successful are we at creating this connection?
- How well do we personally invite people into the parish?
- How do we get the volunteers needed to implement our tactics?
- What demographic groups feel welcome and which do not?
- Do new and seasoned parishioners feel equally at ease participating in parish life?
- Do people want to be here, or are they here through Catholic guilt?

Key Concept #2: Faith Formation – How can we provide spiritual growth opportunities that energize parishioners to learn more about and deepen their faith?

Definition: Faith Formation programs renew enthusiasm for the Catholic faith at every stage of a person's faith journey. By the time our youth are confirmed they have a strong knowledge base of the Catholic faith. Our adult community has opportunities to explore and renew their faith. Each generation feels called to engage and educate the next generation. Sacramental Preparation is a key component of faith formation and inspires continued engagement.

Current Tactics:

- STB Preschool
- Faithful Shepherd Catholic School
- Sacramental Preparation
- Finding God Program (Elementary)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word (ages 4-9 yrs)
- Middle School *Edge* Program
- High School *Ignite* Program
- Confirmation Program
- Vacation Bible School
- Small Adult Faith-Sharing Groups
- Adult Education Sessions
- RCIA

Questions:

- How do we create excitement for learning at all age levels?
- How do we make a strong youth program that kids are excited to be a part of?
- How do we transition our newly confirmed into young adults in the church?
- How do we expand our adult education opportunities?
- How do we get great adult volunteers to drive the programs?
- How do we make sure we don't lose parishioners based on discontent with the Faith Formation program?

Key Concept #3: Liturgy & Worship – How can we create vibrant, prayerful worship to celebrate God and who we are?

Definition: Worship experiences draw people in, energize them and lead them to full, active participation in the liturgy, prayer and parish life. Emotional experiences are created through specific moments that increase spiritual connection. The physical environment enhances participation.

Current Tactics:

- Liturgy Committee
- New Liturgy/Worship Commission
- Liturgy Coordinator
- Environment ministry
- Eucharistic ministries scheduled
- Lectors scheduled and trained
- Altar servers scheduled and trained
- Mass coordinators scheduled
- Multiple choirs (Bell choir, 9am/11am/5pm choirs, youth choirs, seasonal choirs)
- Stations of the Cross
- Sacramental Celebrations
- Adoration

Questions:

- How do we create or enhance opportunities for prayer?
- How can we enhance acoustics and/or better train our soundboard operators?
- How can we better align our musical selections to the needs of the parishioners?
- How can we create an environment where people want to join the choir?
- How can we create an environment where parishioners want to sing?
- Should we include daily masses and vespers into our worship experience?
- How can we provide music and liturgy that inspires enthusiastic and engaged participation?
- How can we enhance our physical environment to be more inviting?

Key Concept #4: Engagement and Membership– How can we be a community that emotionally and spiritually engages its current members and invites new members?

Definition: People feel an emotional connection to the parish that leads to increased involvement in church ministries and parish life. Participation is based on the desire to build the community - to be ready, willing and able to respond to God’s call to be “Salt for the Earth” and “Light for the World”. Membership continually grows.

Current Tactics:

- Recruitment as needed via bulletin, announcements, web postings and bulletin boards
- Many current ministries from which to choose
- GEM/new Commission model
- New Parishioners Welcome process
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Questions:

- How can we create an environment where every member regularly contributes to the life of the parish?
- How do we develop ministries that meet the spiritual and emotional needs of our community?
- How can we increase the visibility of STB in the broader community?
- How can we keep our current members?
- How do we get members to get beyond feeling obligated and to want to be involved?
- How do we recruit new members?
- How do we advertise our Social Justice initiatives to engage current members and draw new members?
- How do we become physically more recognizable as a church?

Key Concept #5: Youth Involvement – How do we keep our youth actively engaged in parish life?

Definition: Youth (Middle through High School) are actively engaged in all aspects of parish life.

Activities are specifically designed to meet their unique needs. All parish ministries have an element of youth involvement. Youth display an enthusiasm for their faith and parish community.

Current Tactics:

- Youth Minister position
- Faith Formation positions
- Youth Music Director
- Strong adult parishioner involvement in youth programs
- Middle School *Edge* program
- High School *Ignite* program

Questions:

- How do we keep our youth actively engaged during & after Confirmation?
- How do we instill a desire for youth to come to Mass and to participate in parish life?
- How do we create an exciting youth program that encourages our youth to invite their friends and draws new members to our parish?
- How do we maintain a youthful spirit across the whole parish?

Key Concept #6: Social Justice & Outreach. How do we embed the seven Catholic Social Justice Teachings into all aspects of parish life?

Definition: Catholic Social Justice teachings are commonly understood by all parishioners. We are known in the community for embracing and demonstrating our commitment to social justice. Our outreach efforts effectively respond to the urgent needs of the community.

Current Tactics:

- Habitat for Humanity
- 3 Acres Project
- San Lucas Coffee
- Paint-a-Thon
- Just Faith (30 week series)
- Just Matters
- Food Shelf Donations
- Easter Basket Donations
- Bread for the World
- Feed My Starving Children

Questions:

- How can we educate parishioners on the existence and meaning of the social justice teachings?
- How do we balance social justice and outreach efforts?
- How do we continue to generate volunteer interest in these ministries?
- How do we motivate people to work towards systems change without polarizing the community?