



Saint Michael Parish

North Andover, MA



Disciples in Mission Plan 2016—2019



In June, 2014, St. Michael Parish was designated to participate in the **“Disciples in Mission”** initiative in the Archdiocese of Boston. The purpose of this significant initiative from Cardinal Sean is to strengthen parishes for the mission of the New Evangelization.

Since that time, the Staff, Clergy, Council members, and many parishioners have participated in numerous trainings, workshops, and discussions to learn how we can draw people closer to Christ and His Church. Along with those trainings, a writing team composed of eleven members representing all aspects of our parish life was formed and met several times over the past few months.

The task before the writing team was to set forth a pastoral plan for our Parish for the next three years to help us be more intentional in our efforts to strengthen our own faith and to reach out to others. Besides defining the purpose, values and vision for our parish, we were encouraged to present three priorities with specific goals for each priority and the tasks involved for each goal. Two of the priorities came from the parish online survey that parishioners completed in the spring of 2015, as well as other discussions and discernment, which followed from our parish trainings and workshops. One of the priorities was given to us by Cardinal Sean, which was for vocations, especially to the diocesan priesthood. We are ready now to share that plan with you.

The plan for our parish focuses on three priorities: Evangelization, Vocation, and Service. I have included a summary of that plan in the bulletin this week. [The full plan can be found on the following pages.](#) Over the next few weeks, members of our parish plan-writing team will be speaking at Mass to explain what we hope to accomplish. Also, on Monday, March 14th at 7:00pm, we invite you to join us in a conversation about this plan in our Parish Hall.

St. Michael Parish is truly a vibrant community of faith. As we begin this new venture I simply ask for your support and prayers that, together, we can become an even more effective presence of Jesus Christ in this community.

God Bless!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Fr. Deeley".

Rev. Kevin J. Deeley, Pastor

VISION:

*Saint Michael Parish:
Living with purpose . . . Living with Christ!*

Purpose Statement:

We are called to lead all people into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ by evangelizing and living the Gospel so that, together, we can grow in our faith and serve those in need.

VALUES: *Who are we as a parish community?*

1. Worship:

Definition: *We are a people of faith who reverently express our love of God.*

Examples:

- Helping members grow in a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Mass.
- Encouraging more active participation in prayer and song.
- Exposing people to different forms of prayer.
- Fostering a spirit of Thanksgiving.

2. Service:

Definition: *We are generous stewards of God's gifts to serve those in need.*

Examples:

- Communicating how people can share their God given gifts within the parish and the broader community.
- Helping people discover that they are truly the presence of Christ in their service.
- Identifying new opportunities to serve others.
- Fostering an environment where we live the gospel message: "it is in giving that we receive."

3. Community:

Definition: *We are a welcoming people who recognize Christ in each person we meet.*

Examples:

- Being present to others with active listening.
- Fostering an environment of inclusiveness.
- Succession planning for ministry leaders, training new volunteers to serve.
- Developing small faith sharing groups for all ages.
- Building up parish community with social events.

PRIORITY #1: *Create a spirit of Evangelization in heart, mind and action by encouraging all to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.*

GOAL #1: **Achieve at least 30 small faith sharing groups centering on scripture and understanding and living one's faith in today's world by June, 2019.**

Task 1	Create a position for an Adult Spirituality team leader.
Task 2	Create an Adult Spirituality team of 5 to 8 people to lead the development of small faith sharing groups.
Task 3	Determine the needs of parishioners in faith and spiritual growth, including, but not limited to, interests, availability and limitations.
Task 4	Investigate and explore Evangelization programs in other parishes, locally and nationally, e.g. other collaborative plans in archdiocese; recognizing diverse faith journeys, ages, cultures and vocations.
Task 5	Identify existing small faith sharing groups in parish and increase the number of small faith sharing groups by 1/3 each year for 3 years to reach 30 by June, 2019.
Task 6	Provide good and thorough training for small group facilitators.
Task 7	Implement small faith sharing groups, reaching out to new facilitators.

GOAL #2: **Foster a stronger spirit of welcome by achieving a dedicated hospitality group of 6 members at each weekend liturgy by June, 2019.**

Task 1	Create a hospitality team of 6 people to lead the development of a parish hospitality ministry, identifying a leader to communicate goals and purpose.
Task 2	Identify the present efforts of hospitality in the parish.
Task 3	Raise awareness of the hospitality ministry and invite people to serve.
Task 4	Recruit and provide training of hospitality ministers.
Task 5	Implement 2 Masses per year until June, 2019.

PRIORITY #2: Cultivate an environment of vocations in which each person discovers God's purpose for them.

GOAL #1: Develop a Vocational Awareness team of 3 to 5 people by Oct. 1, 2016. By September 1, 2017, the team will establish 2 to 3 programs/events each year, highlighting the diocesan priesthood and including consecrated life, diaconate life and marriage/single life.

Task 1	Intentionally pray for vocations, particularly diocesan priesthood, at all parish events and gatherings.
Task 2	Identify required skill set and possible team members and establish team of 3 to 5 people by Oct. 1, 2016.
Task 3	Investigate and explore vocational awareness programs in other parishes, locally and nationally, e.g. other collaborative plans in archdiocese.
Task 4	Invite the vocational office of archdiocese to meet with the team and train them in vocational awareness.
Task 5	Provide 2 to 3 vocational awareness programs/events per year for all parishioners, helping them understand their own personal call from God.

GOAL #2: Increase to 40-50 young men (high school age) from St. Michael Parish who will have attended the St. Andrew Dinner by June 1, 2019.

Task 1	Provide workshops on vocation for priesthood, inviting parents, youth ministers, peer ministers, parish adults, etc.
Task 2	Provide multiple means to promote awareness of the need for priestly vocations and of the vocation itself through the bulletin, witness talks, web site, and social media.
Task 3	Identify people who are instrumental in reaching young men and inviting them to priesthood.
Task 4	Meet with all parish groups to educate them on priestly vocations and train them on inviting young men to the dinner.

GOAL #3: Increase awareness of the diocesan priesthood among the youth of St. Michael Parish and School by establishing a program where each grade level K-10, has one presentation per year by Sept. 1, 2017.

Task 1	Schedule a meeting to include representatives from Elementary, Middle and High School Religious Education programs and Saint Michael School to discuss presentation of ideas that would resonate with the various age students.
Task 2	Choose an age appropriate program that develops an understanding of the priestly vocation each year, building upon the previous year's topic. The program will include real life stories, the understanding of one's gifts and talents and the rewards of this vocation.
Task 3	Educate parents on the program prior to speaking with youth. Parents need to understand and be encouraged to offer the diocesan priesthood as a vocation option.
Task 4	Schedule program(s) to start annually beginning 9/1/16.

PRIORITY #3: *Responding to the gospel message as disciples of Jesus Christ, we identify and develop opportunities to serve others.*

GOAL #1: Plan, execute and develop a mission trip for 15-20 families to serve a community in need by June, 2019.

Task 1	Recruit a leader and form a core team of 3-5 people responsible for the planning, developing and execution of the trip.
Task 2	Research opportunities for mission in the United States for families, looking at experiences of other parishes.
Task 3	Select a mission: location, date & time.
Task 4	Publicize the mission trip throughout the parish and encourage participation through attendance, prayers, and other support.
Task 5	Recruit and prepare 15-20 families & individuals to participate in the mission.
Task 6	Coordinate parish-wide support of mission.
Task 7	Execute the mission.
Task 8	Reflect on mission with group and parish.

GOAL #2: Develop a one-day service project in North Andover where 150-200 Saint Michael parishioners serve the community by June, 2017.

Task 1	Recruit a leader and form a core team of 3-5 people responsible for the planning, developing and execution of the project.
Task 2	Coordinate with parish and community leaders.
Task 3	Identify a project: date, time, location
Task 4	Provide appropriate inspiration, education, engagement and invitation to parishioners to participate.
Task 5	Recruit participants and provide appropriate ongoing support.
Task 6	Execute the project.
Task 7	Reflect on the project with group and parish.

Disciples in Mission Plan-Writing Team:

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For further information or to get more involved, please contact the Pastoral Center at 978-686-4050 or email: st-michael@comcast.net.

Pray for the New Evangelization

Lord Jesus Christ, You have given your Church the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations. May our efforts to fulfill this mission be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we might be a leaven of new life, salt of the earth and a light of the world, worthy missionaries and faithful to You.

Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church and inspire us to speak the truth with love.

Help us to communicate to others the joy that we have received.

Permit us to be united, but not closed; humble, but not fearful; simple but not naïve;

thoughtful but not overbearing; contemporary, but not superficial;

respectful of others, but boldly Your disciples. May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ the Lord, who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God forever and ever. Amen.

--Pope Francis

Submitted to Cardinal Sean O'Malley for review on December 1, 2015.

Revised January 26, 2016.

Awaiting Cardinal's approval by June 1, 2016.