

## Core Values

### *Commitment*

The real work of discipleship happens within the individual and requires a personal commitment to spiritual growth. It is up to each one of us to engage in the work of becoming a disciple.

### *An Attitude of Forgiveness & Humility*

We are all called to continuing conversion. Our faults and weaknesses should not prevent us from being members of the worshipping community. A humble attitude and a forgiving heart allow us to grow spiritually and encourage others to do the same.

### *Reverence*

We adore God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We recognize Mary, Mother of God as our parish patron and model of discipleship. We strive to provide a worship environment of joy, inspiration and reverence. We show reverence for ourselves and our fellow human beings by loving them as Jesus does.

### *Importance of Family*

We acknowledge the importance of family, nuclear and extended, neighborhood and parish "families". We provide programs that support and nurture family life. "Families do not need to be 'perfect' families; they need to be holy families." (Fr. Edwards).

### *Welcome*

We invite and accept each person as a child of God. Christ's mercy and grace are offered to everyone. We strive to create an environment of welcome and respect.

### *Service to Others*

We commit ourselves to living out Jesus' command to love one another. The Church isn't just for those who come to church. All of our ministries foster an awareness of and service to those in need, especially the elderly, the poor and the lonely.



from your Pastor

Dear Parishioners:

With the publication of this pamphlet, we set forth our mission statement, core values and parish goals for the next few years. A great deal of work has gone into this and we thank all who gave input and those who shaped the final product.

Many activities happen daily in our parish-too many to count. Some are sacramental, others deal with planning upcoming events for the poor, while still others attend to the religious education of both children and adults. But the flurry of projects is not random-not at all. The vision set forth in this pamphlet will guide everything we do. We know who we are and where we are going. We are excited to have a direction that will give our parish identity and focus.

We look forward to involving every parishioner in some way toward making our vision become real and effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray that, with the help of God, Mary, Mother of God Parish will be a beacon of hope and joy to all in North Scranton and beyond.

Sincerely,

Fr. Cyril Edwards

# Mary, Mother of God Parish

Scranton, Pennsylvania

Pastoral Framework  
2022-2027



*Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (Matthew 28: 19-20)*



## The Call to Discipleship

During 2019 and 2020, our Parish Pastoral Council began to delve deeper into the question of what it means to be a parish community. The Council spent months reading and discussing texts focused on parish renewal. We reached out to the parish through a survey and reviewed its findings in great detail. All of our discussions led us to the same conclusion—the health of the parish is directly related to the spiritual growth of each parishioner. The Council developed five parish-wide goals and a set of core values that are for all of us to commit to.

## Mission Statement

*Mary, Mother of God Parish  
makes disciples, serving God  
and everyone with compassion  
and love.*

In formulating a meaningful mission statement for our parish, the Parish Pastoral Council consulted sacred Scripture. What is it that God is asking of us individually and as Mary, Mother of God Parish? What mission is he entrusting to us? These questions led the Council to Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 28: 19-20. Jesus' last words to his disciples before his Ascension were, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." This, then is our mission too, individually and as a parish, just as it was for the Apostles.

Each week, in our Vision Prayer, we pray that Jesus will enable us to serve those in need with compassion and love, in fulfillment of his Gospel mandate. We are sent from every Mass to make present in our world the mystery of Christ which we just celebrated. As Christ comes to us in Communion, we are to take him to the situations and people that we meet.

## Parish Goals

To help each of us at Mary, Mother of God Parish become better disciples, we will:

Ensure that all parishioners understand the meaning of discipleship and the expectations that come with being a good disciple.

- *What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus ?*
- *What does discipleship demand of me ?*

Build an atmosphere of profound spiritual reverence at Mass that enables us to extend respect to every person we meet.

- *How should I show reverence at Mass ?*
- *Why do I, as a Catholic, owe respect to everyone ?*

Cultivate in each parishioner a sense of belonging, a connection to one another and a connection to parish life.

- *What does it really mean to belong to a parish ?*
- *How do I help others to feel like they belong ?*

Foster opportunities for parishioners to recognize and use their natural leadership abilities.

- *What talents and strengths do I have that I am willing to put at God's service in my parish ?*

Develop an awareness of and outreach to those who are not in our midst.

- *Why should I pay attention to those who aren't in our midst ?*
- *Why is it important for our parish to have outreach in our communities ?*

## The Benefits of Discipleship

Where do we begin our commitment to discipleship? First, we need to look at our own life, the life we actually live. That's where our discipleship starts, with and among the people we encounter every day. To be good disciples we do not need to go to a mission territory; we need to make Christ present in our families, our parish, and our neighborhoods. It is important for us, as a parish, to be a sign of **Christ's presence in our community**. We need to be an invitation to others to come to know Jesus and to join us in living out the mission he gave us.

We bring Mary, Mother of God Parish with us wherever we go. All of our ministries, whether in **Word, Worship, Community**, or **Service** help us to reach out to those who need to feel the presence of Jesus in their lives. These ministries are opportunities for those who carry them out to grow as individual disciples. They are also a chance for our parish to become a stronger sign of Christ's compassion and love in our part of Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

Much of this activity already happens at our parish. Whether it is the Social Concerns Committee or the Marian Society with their activities of service and outreach to the community, or extraordinary ministers of Communion connecting our homebound to parish worship, or CCD teachers spreading the Word of God to our children and their families, **our parish has already accepted the call to discipleship**.

Because our experience of God's generosity is so rich in our parish, we need to share that richness with those who are thirsting for meaning in their lives. We hope that our focus on discipleship in this framework for the next five years will create an enthusiastic response in all of us to the call of Jesus to share his good news.