

## Parish Vision & Vitality Goals:

In response to the Archdiocese's call for our parish to identify ways that we might increase our vitality, the Parish Council has worked carefully to identify two goals for the 2023-2024 year. Both goals speak to our overarching vision of growing our parish.

### **GOAL # 1: Increase parishioner attendance at Saturday Mass by 20% by June of 2024.**

#### **Rationale:**

Our Parish is experiencing a decline in Mass attendance, likely driven by Covid-related factors and switching from Sunday to Saturday evening Mass. Pre-Covid Mass averaged 120 weekly Mass attendance compared to post-Covid attendance of 90. In 2012, Mass attendance among parishioners registered with the Parish averaged about 152 or 45% of registered parishioners. In 2014, St. Isidore had 398 total parishioners with a weekend Mass count of 143, and a participation rate of 36%. In 2016, we had 338 total parishioners and we averaged 129 people in attendance at weekend Mass, for a participation rate of 38%. Although there is a data gap in Mass counts for years 2017-2021, Parish Council members recall that participation rates held fairly steady until the Covid pandemic. As we know, the pandemic had an extraordinarily negative effect on Mass attendance in 2020 and even 2021. But the post-Covid era has not seen a rebound to pre-Covid attendance rates. In October of 2021, for example, our Mass counts averaged 71 in attendance with 331 registered. In October of 2022, our weekend Mass count averaged 90 in attendance with 325 registered members.

To gain back what has been lost, we have a long journey to make, and we must take that journey patiently, step by step. A 20% increase in parishioner attendance from 2022 would place us at a Mass count average of 108, which we would measure at the October Mass count in 2024 (to give us one full year to implement our goal).

#### **Key Action Steps:**

We have identified four key action steps that we will be following this year:

- Make regular phone calls and write a personal note on a postcard to all active and inactive parishioners.
- Encourage parishioners to personally invite others (families and friends) to Mass.
- Improve on and introduce 10 new contemporary and traditional songs to our repertoire of music.
- Encourage young families to allow their children to participate in the monthly Children's Mass.
- Encourage parishioners to continue to bring love and mercy of Jesus to others in the community.
- Encourage parishioners to pray and discuss materials and activities with friends.

**Communication of Goal and Progress:**

We will announce our goals to the parish via our bulletin, website, Facebook, email, and announcements before Mass. In December and February, we will create a visual display in the Gathering Space to encourage parishioners to adopt the role of inviting their Catholic friends and neighbors to weekend Mass. We will follow up after each action step by placing a feature about the importance of “welcoming new faces to Mass” in our bulletin, website, Facebook, and emails. Finally, we will give a report on the Mass count results after October of 2023 and 2024.

**GOAL # 2: Increase involvement as a parish within the community of Springville evidenced by participation in at least three community events and/or organizations by June 2024.****Rationale:**

The parish should become a more outward-looking church rather than inward-looking and help attract community members to the church by being more visible within the community.

Our purpose will be directed towards increasing the presence of our parish in the community by extending our services, thereby bringing our faith closer to the community. Our hope is that the work we have been doing in the community will be enhanced by these services.

**Key Action Steps:**

We have identified four action steps that we will be following this year:

- The parish will take part in community events like parades, fundraisers, or other community building activities.
- Encourage parishioner attendance at community events identified as parishioners by wearing parish t-shirt.
- Tithe to organizations in the community.
- Provide food pantry and meal support to programs like SANSI and Catholic Worker House on behalf of St. Isidore's Parish.

**Communication of Goal and Progress:**

We will communicate the message of intentional discipleship to all parishioners via our bulletin, website, Facebook, emails, and announcements before Mass. Social Justice will communicate tithing decisions each quarter. Parish Council will share positive feedback from parishioners who participate in service activities both at St. Isidore's and in the local community.