

St. Benilde Catholic Church

Parish Pastoral Plan

2017



Reverend Father Robert T. Cooper

Pastor



Preface

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

I am pleased to present the **2017 Parish Pastoral Plan for St. Benilde Catholic Church**. This Plan is the product of a collaborative effort among the laity, clergy and staff of this parish, and represents an extraordinary outpouring of planning, perseverance and prayer. Clearly, the Holy Spirit was at work!



We Remember – Over fifty years ago, a group of “ordinary” laity and clergy who were united in “extraordinary” faith, erected our humble parish. Blessed with their insight, energy and devotion, each of us has enjoyed the fruits of their vision and their commitment to loving the Lord and serving others. In this plan, their dream continues to be fulfilled.

We Celebrate - Three years ago, it became clear that if we wanted to grow and strengthen our parish then we must look to the future just as our parish forefathers did over fifty years ago. Collectively, we needed to chart the course for future generations.

We began with the fundamentals. We looked at the successes of the past and we discerned the likely challenges of the future. After considerable reflection, the Parish Pastoral Council entered into a “Re-Visioning” process which yielded a new Vision Statement and Mission Statement for our parish family. This process further strengthened our approach to collaborative ministry as the core basis for how we live out our Vision and Mission. This collaborative approach includes members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Ministry Leaders, Staff Members, and the Pastoral Team. We have come to learn that servant leadership is a process of collaborating among these entities.

Every parishioner was invited to share their ideas, hopes and dreams with an online Parish Survey. Parishioners provided many ideas, suggestions and challenges which is the basis for this Parish Pastoral Plan. The Parish Survey results, as well as contributions from many parishioner-led committees and working groups as well as the final results of the Archdiocese of New Orleans 9th General Synod, have produced a powerful plan for the future of our spiritual home -- our parish family of St. Benilde.

We Believe - This plan is our guide to living out our Mission and Vision. To succeed, it will require the commitment, energy and partnership of ALL the parishioners that make up our parish. I ask that each of us reflect upon our God-given gifts and talents as we implement this Parish Pastoral Plan. Then, pray and discern a program or activity that best fits your gifts and make a commitment to a ministry. I believe that parishioners and our parish will grow stronger through the relationships we build with each other and God in fulfilling our Vision and Mission.

I pray for God’s blessing on this Plan, as well as on each of you. We must remain open to the workings of the Spirit and allow the Spirit to guide us so that we may fulfill the priorities and goals of this plan in order to fully realize our God given mission. Availing myself of this opportunity to express my sentiments of profound fatherly affection and with every best wish, I remain

Sincerely in the Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. T. Cooper', written over a light blue grid background.

Reverend Father Robert T. Cooper
Pastor

An Overview of Parish Pastoral Planning

Parish Pastoral Planning begins on the parish level by inviting each pastor to commission and reinvigorate their Parish Pastoral Council, a group of lay leaders who, with the pastoral staff, gather the consultation of the wider community and create a plan of action based on the essential mission of the Church.

Parish Pastoral Planning involves a large consultation of all parishioners and a deep reflection on the core values of the parish community. Through Parish Pastoral Planning, St. Benilde Parish has:

- ❖ Looked at the parish in light of the Gospel Mission
- ❖ Facilitated a broad consultation process with all members of the parish community
- ❖ Assessed the strengths and resources of the parish
- ❖ Assessed the limitations and needs of the parish
- ❖ Examined the local neighborhood in which the parish exists
- ❖ Articulated a mission and vision statement for the parish
- ❖ Created Priorities and Goals for the next 3-5 years
- ❖ Created Action Steps (Objectives) to achieve the goals
- ❖ Called forth leaders from among the community to bring the plan to reality



The St. Benilde Parish Pastoral Council

What is the role of the Pastoral Council in the Pastoral Planning Process?

The St. Benilde Parish Pastoral Council is a leadership body within the parish whose role is to develop and implement a mission-focused pastoral plan for the parish.

As servants to the wider community, the Pastoral Council provides parishioners with forums for consultation and reflection on the mission of the Church in light of the signs of the times in the local neighborhood and the world.

The Pastoral Council has developed a pastoral plan, based on the insights of the community, to enable our family of faith to continue to live out the mission of the Gospel.

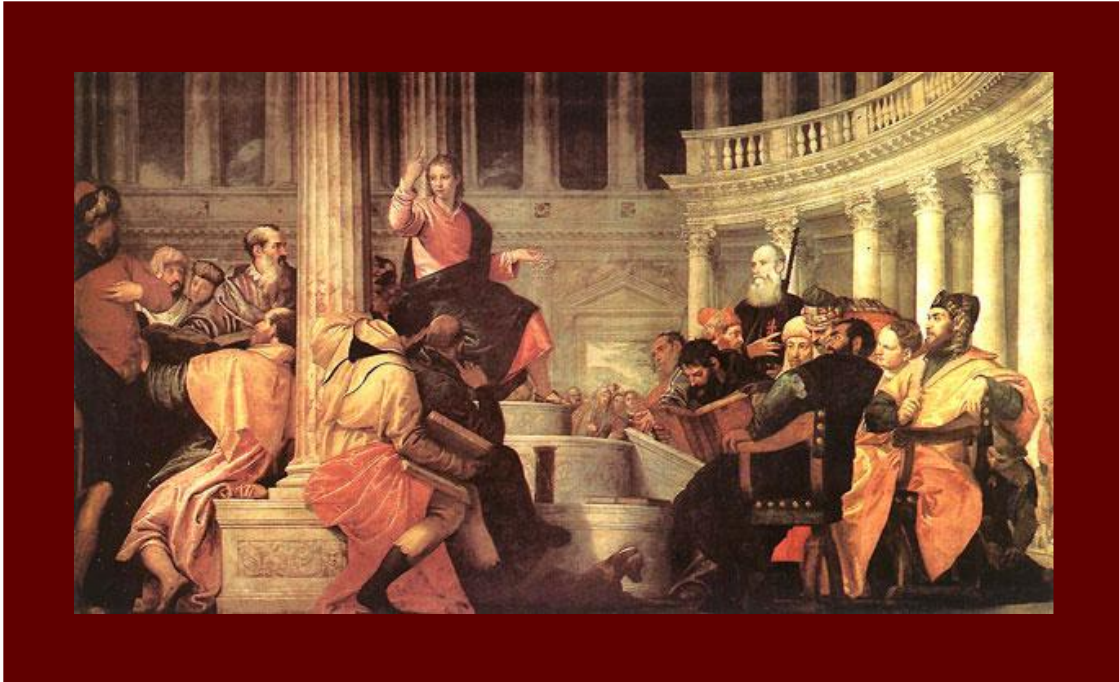
The Pastoral Council will call forth leaders from the parish to implement and achieve the goals of the pastoral plan.

What has the Pastoral Council done in relation to the Pastoral Planning Process?

The Pastoral Council has been charged with creating and implementing a pastoral plan in the life of St. Benilde Parish. Pastoral planning begins with a parish-wide dialogue on the mission of the Church, the perceptions of the community, and the current reality of the parish. This dialogue has been facilitated by the Parish Pastoral Council.

The information gathered from these dialogues has been taken by the Pastoral Council and the pastor and used to create our 2017 Parish Pastoral Plan. The pastoral plan articulates the goals and priorities of the parish community for the next 3 – 5 years.

The Parish Pastoral Council will continue to call forth individuals from the community to implement the goals of the pastoral plan. In this way, the Parish Pastoral Council members are parish leaders charged with developing other leaders.



The Purpose of Parish Pastoral Planning



Parish pastoral planning is a prayerful and participative process through which a parish characterizes itself as a particular community of faith by developing its own mission statement, assessing its current life, and dreaming about the possibilities of the future. Through pastoral planning, parishioners provide consultation to the pastor by answering the questions: Who are we as a parish? What are we called to do? How are we best going to do it?

All of us are called to participate fully in the life and mission of the Church. This mission of the Church is rooted in the mission of Christ who commanded everyone – clergy, religious, and laity – to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.” (Matt 16:15)

From its earliest days the Church has responded to this mission in various ways depending upon the times and circumstances. During our current time, the challenges and opportunities which face us are great, making our reflection and planning all the more critical because:

The parish is for most Catholics the single most important part of the Church. This is where for them the mission of Christ continues. This is where they publicly express their faith, joining with others to give proof of their communion with God and with one another... It is in the parish that the most intimate concerns of individuals and the broadest reaches of the church’s mission come together.

Within each parish, the Parish Pastoral Council is the consultative body which fosters the full participation of the entire parish in the life and mission of the Church. One of the chief ways that a Pastoral Council functions is through pastoral planning.

Pastoral planning is essential to the development of a parish. It encourages the fullest collaboration of clergy, religious, and laity. Pastoral planning enables a parish to become ever more fully a portion of the People of God, sharing in the mission of Christ in their specific place. Pastoral planning increases clarity about the mission and priorities of the parish, affects the ways in which resources are used, and encourages the participation and support of parishioners. Pastoral planning is an ongoing part of parish life.

Goals of Pastoral Planning

Despite the uniqueness of the parish planning process, the goals of pastoral planning are the same for each parish. These goals are the driving principles behind any planning process and were considered when designing our unique process for St. Benilde Parish. The goals are as follows:

- ❖ Create a parish pastoral plan for each parish which designates 3-5 year goals
- ❖ Create deeper relationships by initiating a community dialogue around the mission of the parish
- ❖ Engage the entire faith community in the planning process
- ❖ Educate the parish about the parish
- ❖ Strengthen the leadership role of pastor, pastoral staff, parish leaders and Parish Pastoral Council

- ❖ Increase participation in parish life
- ❖ Hold all activities of the parish accountable to the Gospel mission

Pastoral planning is not a means to an end. The conversation and reflection, the dialogue and prayer which mark the process of pastoral planning are themselves an exercise in being Church.

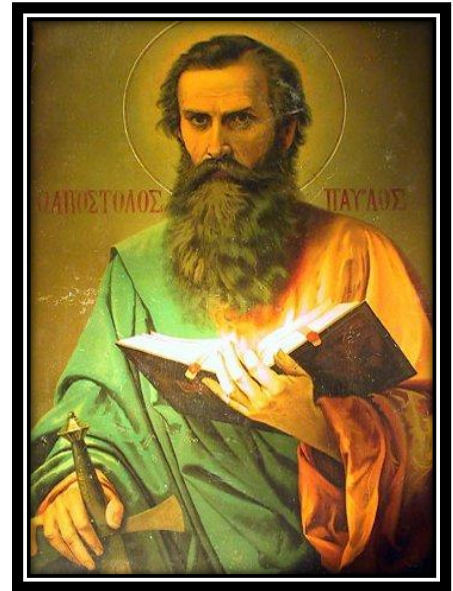
And so we began our pastoral planning process at St. Benilde Parish with a reading from St. Paul:

Brothers and sisters:
 Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
 by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
 make your requests known to God.
 Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
 will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
 whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
 whatever is just, whatever is pure,
 whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
 if there is any excellence
 and if there is anything worthy of praise,
 think about these things.
 Keep on doing what you have learned and received
 and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

~ Phil 4:6-9



The Essential Elements of Parish Life

Despite the uniqueness and diversity of the parishes within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, there are some foundational similarities, which are true for all faith communities, not only in our archdiocese, but for the entire Church. These similarities are known as the essential elements of parish life. These essential elements relate to the basic mission of the parish and have become the foundation of our parish's dialogue and reflection in creating our current pastoral plan.



These essential elements exist in every parish in some way. Without them the parish could not be called a Church. These elements are the bedrock of the faith community. As we move into an unknown future, these elements will guide our journey and ensure that whatever the future brings, it will be a future which is true to our Catholic tradition and an expression of the life-giving mission that we hold sacred.

These elements are not static though. Nor are they segmented or separated from one another. They are constantly in a process of development. A faith community is a living organism that can never be pinned down, but for the sake of reflection and exploration, we must find some way to depict it. Therefore, even as we began to name these elements and reflect on them, it was important to note that none of these elements exist apart from the others. In fact, one important question in developing this pastoral plan is how these elements nourish one another and how they can be brought into greater communion with one another in the life of the parish.

Pastoral Council members were encouraged to learn about these elements, to reflect on them in their own experience as a parishioner, and to develop strategies and methods to engage the larger community in a reflection around these elements.

The Seven Essential elements find their basis in the Code of Canon Law in the advisement of pastors on the norms of parish life (canons 528-530). They can be identified as: Worship, Word, Community, Service, Leadership, Stewardship and Evangelization.

These elements have at their core **Eucharist**, the very heart of our identity as Catholics, the center of parish life and of our faith in Jesus Christ.

“It is through the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*).

In its simplest form, we can describe the elements as follows:

Worship- The spiritual life of a parish animates its mission. Personal and communal prayer are essential to the building up of the body of Christ. Worship gives expression to the faith of our communities and our degree of commitment to furthering the Reign of God. Through our worship we are nourished and strengthened to engage in the work of ministry which seeks to transform the world.

Word- Our spiritual journey is an ongoing lifelong process. As individuals and as a community we are called to deepen our relationship with Christ and pass it on to others. “Word” indicates a number of ways in which we do this, both formally and informally. Through catechesis, sacramental preparation, family formation, Sunday homilies, or the RCIA process, we build communities of faith through preaching, teaching and living the Word of God.



Community- We do not worship in isolation for Catholics are a communal people. Church life draws people together in mutual support, activity, celebration, and growth. It is the unity that results from members becoming involved with one another in all other elements of the pastoral mission. Community is the human dynamic through which the mission of the church is embodied and embraced.

“The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the Earth.” (*Communities of Salt and Light*, NCCB)



Service – The Church is called to serve the needs of others and eliminate the causes of injustice. “Service” therefore includes the elements of both charity and justice. Far from being a burden to parish life, social ministry is part of what keeps a parish alive, making it truly Catholic and reflecting the Gospel mission.

These elements are surrounded and supported by **Leadership** and **Stewardship**.

Leadership – While the pastor bears ultimate responsibility and authority with a parish, effective councils require a shared leadership among clergy and laity which calls forth the gifts of visioning, planning empowering and evaluating. The council leads as servants of God, drawing forth the gifts of others through active Stewardship.

Stewardship – If the Church is to fulfill its mission, we must be deeply committed to sharing our gifts, talents, money, and material resources in the same spirit of generosity as the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave all that He had for our salvation. With an understanding of what membership in the Church involves, this sharing is not so much an option for Catholics but a serious duty that both keeps the church alive and honors those gifts we have been given through the grace of the Holy Spirit.



Evangelization: The term evangelization encompasses any way in which the Church continues to spread the Good News of Jesus. Evangelization is at the heart of the mission of the Church. We evangelize by sharing our enthusiasm for the faith, inviting others to join or recommit themselves to the faith, and fostering gospel values in our families and society so as to transform the world.

The seven elements with the Eucharist at its center provided a filter through which all the activities of the parish were sifted, each falling into place as the purpose of the parish was prayerfully discerned. Everything the church does and everything it strives to be fits somewhere into this schema of church life. Through education and catechesis, council members have not only informed parishioners of these elements, but they have quickly connected themselves intimately to what it means to be church in a specific concrete way, helping to provide a vision that will set the stage for the parish assembly.

Scanning the Environment

Before the Parish Pastoral Council begin to develop our 2017 Parish Pastoral Plan, they took the time to Scan the Environment and collect all the appropriate data as it relates to the essential areas of parish life at St. Benilde Parish. Several means were used to scan the environment and collect the appropriate data and information from a wide spectrum of the congregation:

- ❖ SWOT Analysis
- ❖ Parishioner Surveys
- ❖ One-to-one interviews
- ❖ Results of the Archdiocesan Synod

Once the information was compiled, then the work of developing the pastoral plan began by developing goals and objectives.



What follows are the Essential Areas of Parish Life (Priority Areas) with appropriate and measurable goals and objectives for the seven priority areas.

Mission

We, the clergy and lay faithful of St. Benilde Catholic Church, by virtue of our baptism and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, strive to form a vibrant and faith-filled parish family by our common witness to the Lord Jesus Christ. We seek to be instruments of God's grace for the sanctification of His people through divine worship, evangelization, catechesis and service. With loyalty and obedience to the magisterium of the Church, we strive to live an example of holiness, where Jesus is our center and Mary is our model, and to encourage one another as we journey toward eternal life. We recognize our call to be stewards of God's many gifts, and joyfully share them to deepen our love of God through service to others. We welcome all who seek the blessing of God, the redeeming love of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we strive to build the Kingdom of God and strengthen this family of faith.

Vision

St. Benilde Catholic Church is a vibrant and faith-filled parish family of the Archdiocese of New Orleans serving the people of God by our common witness to the Lord Jesus Christ. We, the clergy and lay faithful of St. Benilde, seek to be instruments of God's grace for the sanctification of His people through divine worship, evangelization, catechesis and service.

- We are committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe, through our words and deeds, and we aspire to lead others to a saving knowledge of the Paschal Mystery by the way we live and pray together.
- We seek to grow in holiness of life and strive for a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church through a mature understanding of our Catholic faith, faithful to the magisterium of the Church, and a worthy sacramental participation in the Paschal Mystery. Mindful of the example of our patron, we are committed to ongoing faith formation and spiritual development through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Teaching Magisterium of the Church.
- We acknowledge the special gift we have been given in the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother of the Church and Queen of the Clergy – and in the Communion of Saints. We strive to offer all believers the occasion for a deepening conversion, a step forward in the journey to God, with Mary as the model for that journey and the Saints as our intercessors during our earthly pilgrimage.
- We strive to promote genuine Catholic devotions, maintain time-honored Catholic traditions, and further Eucharist Adoration so as to be formed into the likeness of Christ through repentance and conversion.
- We endeavor to promote strong marriages and healthy families and to make each household in the parish a vibrant domestic church.
- We aspire to give special attention to the integral formation of our youth, to enable them to meet the unique challenges of our modern world. Through spiritual, academic, human and apostolic formation of our children, especially through our school ministry, we seek to teach them to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and to prepare them to become vibrant adult

witnesses to the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We invite our children to consider the possibility of serving God and His Church in the priesthood or religious life.

- We seek to serve all of our brothers and sisters, most especially the poor, the sick, and the elderly. In responding to their spiritual, emotional, and financial needs, we serve Christ and promote the human dignity of those in distress. We also seek to protect and enroll the unborn and to promote the Gospel of Life by bearing witness to the human dignity of all persons from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.
- We strive to cultivate an environment in which authentic Christian stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is understood, accepted and practiced throughout the parish.
- Finally, we find the source and summit of our Christian life in the sacred liturgy, most especially in the celebration of the Holy Mass. We desire to live in the grace of our baptismal consecration by a constant conversion from sin in the sacrament of Penance and a faithful adherence to the Gospel and thus to bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom we were sealed in Confirmation. Above all else, for our creation and redemption, we give thanks and praise to the Father, in the Son, through the Holy Spirit by a solemn, reverent, and dignified celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist, in which the Paschal Mystery is recalled and renewed for our salvation and sanctification.

By our teaching of the Gospel, our celebration of the Sacred Mysteries of the new and everlasting Covenant, our family lives, and our loving service to our brothers and sisters, we proclaim by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father that Jesus Christ is Lord!

St. Benilde Catholic Church

2017 Parish Pastoral Plan

Community

1. To nurture a more welcoming, hospitable environment at St. Benilde Parish. *(Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for he is going to say, 'I came as a guest, and you received me.' — St. Benedict)*
 - a. Cultivate a culture of “Community” – a good practice of recognizing that we are part of a spiritual family that is called by God to serve and show concern for others.
 - b. Establish and train a Hospitality Ministry as the basis for coordinating all welcoming and hospitality efforts of the parish.
 - c. Ensure consistent communication of parish events in the bulletin, pulpit announcements, and the parish website to foster a more welcoming environment.
 - d. Develop and implement an appropriate means of quickly communicating important events in the life of our parishioners: deaths, sickness, prayer requests, births, etc.
2. To cultivate a sense of belonging throughout our parish family so as to encourage more active participation and involvement in parish life. *(The biggest disease is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted. — St. Teresa of Calcutta)*
 - a. Reinstitute a Stewardship Fair for parishioners to see and learn about the various parish ministries so as to encourage them to give of their time and talent.
 - b. Cultivate and promote various parish social events (Parish Picnic, Pot-Luck Dinners, Family Days, etc.) to nurture a sense of community and belonging.
3. To promote an authentic, Catholic vision of marriage, human sexuality, family life, and responsible parenthood within our parish family. *(The family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates...the future of evangelization depends in great part on the Church of the home. – St. John Paul II)*
 - a. Provide opportunities that actively promote, support, strengthen, preserve and enrich marriage and family life in light of the Gospel and Church teaching.
 - b. Walk in solidarity with individuals and families as they journey from pain and grief to hope and healing (*ministry to the divorced and widowed*).
 - c. Promote and foster the sanctity of marriage, the sacramentality of the family, and a Christian lifestyle, throughout the different stages of life with a particular emphasis on struggling marriages.

Service

1. To expand and promote the works of charity, our ministries for social justice, and our advocacy for greater justice within and beyond our parish. *(It is to those who have the most need of us that we ought to show our love more especially. – St. Francis de Sales)*

- a. Continue to foster our Respect Life Ministry and provide continued catechesis and additional prayer/witness opportunities to sacredness of life from conception to natural death.
 - b. Provide awareness of our St. Vincent DePaul outreach ministry and other social services available within our community.
 - c. Establish and offer financial resources in order to make Catholic education at St. Benilde School more affordable and accessible to all parishioners.
2. To grow our pastoral care resources to better meet the needs of all parishioners. *(Lord, help me to make time today to serve you in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance. – St. Vincent de Paul)*
 - a. Provide regular caring interaction with our homebound parishioners.
 - b. Develop and provide awareness of our pastoral care plan to the homebound, sick, dying, and others needing our loving attention.

Stewardship

1. To create a comprehensive stewardship program at St. Benilde Parish. *(Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost. – St. Ignatius of Loyola)*
 - a. Regularly update parishioners on the financial standing of the parish.
 - b. Construct a sustainable parish stewardship process which encourages parishioners to give of their time, talents, and treasures.
2. To identify, allocate and increase the resources available to our parish, while working within a responsible budget true to our parish mission. *(Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left. – Ven. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen)*
 - a. Strive for a common understanding of all funding resources of the parish to ensure allocations meet our needs.
 - b. Continue the practice of publishing the Pastoral Life Report as a summation of the pastoral activity of the parish and as a transparent report of fiscal responsibility.
3. To strive for optimum care, maintenance, and use of our parish campus and facilities. *(A checkbook is a theological document; it will tell you who and what you worship. – Anonymous)*
 - a. Support long range and short range planning efforts to enable our parish facilities to serve the needs of the community.
 - b. Consider a facilities coordinator to maximize effective use and assure equitable space for our ministries/organizations.
 - c. Encourage the formation of a committee to evaluate and prioritize the maintenance needs of church property.

Leadership

1. To encourage new opportunities for parishioner leadership, while identifying additional ways to maximize effective administration of our parish. *(We can count on many lay persons who have a deeply-rooted sense of community and great fidelity to the tasks of charity, catechesis and the celebration of the faith. – Pope Francis)*
 - a. Form well-trained pastoral ministers for services within the parish family.
 - b. Provide catechetical training for lay leaders and volunteers.

2. To offer Christ-centered education in our school, planning responsibly, and working creatively to ensure its future. *(The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students, so that they may be true to their condition as Christ's disciples. – St. John Paul II)*
 - a. See St. Benilde School's Strategic Planning Document
3. To improve communication within the wider parish family by fostering collaboration among the various ministries and services of the parish. *(Love God, serve God; everything is in that. – St. Clare of Assisi)*
 - a. Ensure each ministry supports our parish mission/pastoral plan and have each organization evaluated annually.
 - b. Meet annually with ministry leaders to outline parish events.
4. To promote awareness of religious vocations and support those in discernment. *(If you are what you should be, then you will set the world on fire. – St. Catherine of Siena)*
 - a. Develop a robust Vocations Ministry at St. Benilde Parish.
 - b. Submit 1-2 names of those who are discerning for the priesthood or religious life to the Archdiocese Vocations office.

Evangelization

1. To expand the Church's presence and outreach within and beyond our parish. *(No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples. – St. John Paul II)*
 - a. Design and install a sign with our name in front of church.
 - b. Use modern technology to continue to spread the "good news" of the spiritual and corporal works of St. Benilde Parish.
 - c. Invite all people living within our parish boundaries to participate in existing parish events.
2. To empower all Catholics to exercise their baptismal call to evangelize and to foster conversion in the lives of all people. *(It is more necessary than ever for all the faithful to move from a faith of habit to a faith which is conscious and personally lived. – St. John Paul II)*
 - a. Form an Evangelization Committee to minister to those who attend Mass, to inactive Catholics, and to those who are not Catholic.
 - b. Identify and train an Evangelization Ministry Coordinator to oversee the evangelization efforts of the parish and to foster a greater sense of parish life.
 - c. Provide catechetical formation to all parishioners on the work of the new evangelization.
 - d. Continue to provide parishioners with resources and materials to deepen their faith.

Worship

1. To increase liturgical participation and encourage personal relationships with Christ by increasing sacramental awareness. *(If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy. – St. Jean Vianney)*
 - a. Develop and implement catechetical moments on the Mass and the sacraments.
 - b. Promote families bringing up the gifts at Mass.

- c. Properly train liturgical ministers so as to promote a fuller and active participation in the Divine Liturgy.
2. To continue to celebrate and enhance our worship. *(When the Eucharist is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the divine victim immolated on the altar. – St. John Chrysostom)*
 - a. Continue to foster a prayerful and sacred atmosphere in the Church building through a continued commitment to enhancements in the sacred arts.
 - b. Enhance our liturgical music.
3. To promote perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. *(Trust all things to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are. – St. John Bosco)*
 - a. Provide appropriate and continual catechesis on Eucharistic Adoration.
 - b. Expand our pool of committed Eucharistic Adorers.
 - c. Promote awareness of Holy Hour on Mondays.

Word

1. To enhance our ministry and outreach to our youth and young adults through catechesis and spiritual formation. *(Young people, do not be afraid to be holy! – St. John Paul II)*
 - a. Invite young adults to serve as youth ministry mentors and as catechists.
 - b. Have nights of praise and worship with adoration for youth and adults.
 - c. Conduct listening forums to actively solicit ideas from youth and young adults.
 - d. Connect to the existing Archdiocesan Young Adult ministry.
2. To foster conversion and renewal in the heart of every parishioner, leading to a more active living of Catholic faith through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and Sacred Liturgy. *(You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all. – St. Therese of Lisieux)*
 - a. Enhance adult faith formation opportunities.
 - b. Provide additional resources to strengthen the spiritual and catechetical formation of parishioners.
3. Enhance catechesis and catechetical instruction throughout St. Benilde Parish. *(To love God is something greater than to know Him. – St. Thomas Aquinas)*
 - a. Develop a RCIC program as part of RCIA.
 - b. Strengthen all catechetical ministries through increased resources, proper training, and a commitment to the new evangelization.