

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

**Triangle, Virginia**

**Strategic Plan**

**2024 – 2029**

**(Approved by Pastoral Council – February 17, 2024)**

*A Message from the Pastor*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*After being a part of the community for almost three years and now as your new pastor, I have always been impressed with your generosity of time, talent, and treasure; your devotion to the Liturgy, Eucharist, and the Sacraments; and your faithfulness and kindness to the priests and brothers who have had the honor of serving you here at St. Francis Parish.*

*Now, as we emerge from the pandemic and we start to bring back some of our pre-COVID practices, it is a good time to look at how God's grace has gifted us and the possibilities of what we can accomplish in the future.*

*It is my hope that this strategic plan will be a dynamic document, and that each of our many parish ministries will refer to it to create their own action plans that will help us together reach our goals.*

*Sincerely in Christ,*

*Father James Scullion, OFM*

*Pastor*

## INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Plan is a product of the St. Francis Pastoral Council and is the result of extensive consultation with our clergy and parishioners provided through listening sessions in support of the 2023 General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. It contains our mission, vision, strategic goals, and objectives for the parish to achieve over the next five years.

*Our parish mission* is to proclaim and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and celebrate our spirituality. *Our vision* is to be a vibrant, engaging, welcoming parish where all parishioners have the opportunity to grow in grace and wisdom. The strategic goals and objectives discussed in this Strategic Plan describe how we will fulfill our mission and achieve our vision.

Everything we do as a parish is derived from our parish's mission and aimed toward achieving our vision, and those statements come from the Franciscan values of dignity, peace, justice, hospitality, compassion, reconciliation, and stewardship that we share with the friars who lead us in our spiritual journey.

We have endeavored to align this Strategic Plan with that of the Diocese of Arlington, having developed our goals based on the strategic pillars established by the diocesan plan and tailored to the needs and wants of our parish. This document is designed to provide a framework that will enable the various parish ministries to develop action plans to achieve the established goals, and to provide opportunities for parishioners to contribute their gifts toward achieving the vision of our Parish.

Our intent in creating this Strategic Plan is to provide a path that enables the St. Francis parish community to continue to live and strengthen its spiritual values and achieve its vision to the glory of God and in the fellowship of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

St. Francis Pastoral Council

## THE PATH TO OUR VISION

Our path forward for this five-year Strategic Plan is organized into seven strategic goals. The first six goals align with those of the Diocese of Arlington Strategic Plan because the needs and wants of the people of the diocese fundamentally reflect the needs and wants of the people of our parish. We found this to be true as we compared the diocesan Strategic Plan with the results and recommendations of the parish focus groups and synods held over the last three years. The seventh pillar “Supporting the Priorities of the Franciscan Order” is special and singular to our parish as we are blessed to be under the auspices of the Order of Franciscans Minor and part of the Franciscans’ Our Lady of Guadalupe Province.

Each strategic goal is then supported by an objective. What can you, your family, or the ministries you are a part of do to achieve each objective?

### GOAL 1: REVITALIZE EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION

***We will empower our parishioners to foster a culture of encounter that joyfully attracts people to the Life of Christ and the beauty of his Church.*** This goal aligns with the values of dignity, peace, hospitality, reconciliation, and stewardship.

Objective 1-1: Improve faith formation/sacramental preparation.

Objective 1-2: Refine RCIA programs.

Objective 1-3: Renew community awareness of St Francis and our mission.

Objective 1-4: Enrich outreach to homebound parishioners.

### GOAL 2: CULTIVATE AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP IN CHRIST

***We will inspire and form parishioners to follow Jesus and the teachings of his Church so they actively engage in her apostolic mission.*** This goal aligns with the value of reconciliation.

Objective 2-1: Promote participation by the laity in liturgical and other parish ministries.

Objective 2-2: Encourage and support parishioners in discerning a call to a religious vocation as deacons, priests, or in religious life.

Objective 2-3: Propagate interfaith opportunities semi-annually that support the universal Christ.

GOAL 3: INVIGORATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL

***We will nurture adults and students spiritually, intellectually, and socially to positively transform it for the glory of God.*** This goal aligns with the values of dignity, peace, justice, hospitality, compassion, reconciliation, and stewardship.

Objective 3-1: Revitalize formal educational opportunities of all parish members.

Objective 3-2: Continue to provide full support of goals and objectives of St. Francis School.

Objective 3-3: Provide formal/informal programs for youth not attending St. Francis School.

Objective 3-4: Promote faith educational programs for teenagers and young adults.

Objective 3-5: Strengthen adult education programs with emphasis on sacramental, synodal and historical issues.

GOAL 4: STRENGTHEN PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

***We will build a vibrant parish community where people are welcomed and moved to engage in the sacramental and communal life of the Church.*** This goal aligns with the values of dignity, peace, justice, hospitality, and compassion.

Objective 4-1: Increase parishioner participation in parish ministries.

Objective 4-2: Renew more opportunities for parishioners to come together in family environments.

Objective 4-3: Create options for parish and family life balance.

Objective 4-4: Provide programs to establish, sustain, and strengthen the connection with the church for people who are away.

Objective 4-5: Provide adequate facilities, as well as administrative and financial management support to achieve the stated goals of this plan.

GOAL 5: FOSTER ONE COMMUNION OF MANY CULTURES

***We will foster understanding, respect and appreciation for the different cultural expressions of Catholicism so as to live as the one Body of Christ.*** This goal aligns with the values of dignity, peace, justice, hospitality, and compassion.

Objective 5-1: Encourage ministries to serve the different cultures represented in our parish.

Objective 5-2: Increase awareness and understanding of the many cultures that make up our parish.

Objective 5-3: Seek to blend cross-cultural boundaries.

GOAL 6: DEEPEN OUR COMMITMENT TO CHARITABLE WORKS

***We will proclaim the Lord's call to serve the poor so all are inspired to participate in the Works of Mercy.*** This goal aligns with the values of dignity, peace, justice, and compassion.

Objective 6-1: Assess and intensify our ability to meet the needs of our community.

Objective 6-2: Interact with neighboring religious, governmental, and community organizations quarterly to ensure the needs of all the less fortunate in our community are met .

GOAL 7: SUPPORT THE VALUES AND PRIORITIES OF BOTH THE FRANCISCAN ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR AND SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

***We will assist the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province to be successful in its endeavors to promote its values locally and globally.*** This goal aligns with the values of dignity, peace, justice, hospitality, compassion, reconciliation, and stewardship.

Objective 7-1: Support the management and leadership of parish ministries.

Objective 7-2: Actively support the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province and its endeavors.

Objective 7-3: Ensure our spiritual leaders have the support they need to remain active in ministry.

## A PARISH OF ACTION

We have all been blessed with the gift of a vibrant and diverse Franciscan parish that is focused on serving and glorifying God. We have each been blessed with gifts of talent, time, wisdom, and more. God gave us these gifts through the Holy Spirit for the purpose of serving Him and others.

Now, as a parish of action, every member of our parish family has the opportunity to use our gifts to help accomplish the mission of St. Francis, meet our objectives, reach our goals, and ultimately achieve the vision for our parish described in this plan.

To be successful, our efforts must be coordinated and focused. With this plan as the framework, individuals and ministries will discern and propose specific tasks and activities that will enable us to achieve our vision. The Pastoral Council will ensure proposed tasks are aligned to our goals and objectives, prioritize, and coordinate the activities as needed, and support their implementation appropriately. The Council will monitor progress and ensure we are balancing competing priorities with scarce resources in order to achieve our vision.

This parish is a gift that we all share, and like all gifts that we cherish, we each have a responsibility to support that gift. With this plan and the talents of our parishioners, St. Francis of Assisi Parish will continue to be a vibrant, engaging, welcoming parish where all parishioners have the opportunity to grow in grace and wisdom.