

# Christ Our Light Vision Process, Vision & Impact Statements

Our Family of Parishes led by our own Vision Leadership team has been engaged in a visioning process seeking to discern what God is calling our family to be in the next 5 to 10 years. The process has been rooted in six guiding principle areas of the Beacons of Light process that matter most to a vibrant community of faith. These principle areas are Eucharist, Church, Leadership, Stewardship, Evangelization, and Love in Action.

A vision process was held in the Fall of 2023 with 60 people attending from all eight parishes. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the process was exciting, educational, productive, unifying and extremely positive. A Christ Our Light Vision Statement was created along with Impact Statements and Goals for each principle area mentioned above. Please take a few moments to review the Vision Statement, Impact Statements and Goals below.

We are in the process of organizing family staff, councils, commissions and committees, resource people and other systems that will help develop a strategic plan and implementation process. We trust and believe that the goodwill and collaboration already fostered in our family will continue to flourish and bear good fruit in the years to come. If you are interested in helping implement our vision and impact statements, please contact your local parish office.

## Christ our Light Vision Statement

**Christ our Light Family of parishes, rooted in the Eucharist and Sacraments, strives to be an inviting community of believers by: cultivating faith, knowing, loving and serving God. We will joyfully radiate the Light of Christ to all through love, compassion and example on our journey towards heaven.**

The foundational ideas:

- **Rooted in the Eucharist and Sacraments** – As revealed in sacred scripture, Jesus himself instituted the Sacraments for all Catholics and we keep them central to our community because they unify and strengthen us. This continues the heritage and values our ancestors passed on to us.
- **Inviting community** – As a welcoming family we want to go beyond and invite all to grow our faith community by engaging you where you are. Join us!
- **Cultivating faith** – Cultivating faith as we do the land, we want to spread the Good News as we do seeds especially in our youth. Strong families and farming are a big part of our culture and heritage and we want to remember God's bounty.
- **Knowing, loving and serving God** – We want to continue becoming better by learning more about God (knowing), developing a personal relationship with God (loving), and following his example towards others (serving).
- **Joyfully radiate the Light of Christ**- The love God shows us, the blessings and Grace he gives us – fill us with Joy and we want to show that and exuberantly share it with the world!
- **Love, compassion and example** – Jesus taught us to love everyone as being made in his image. We strive to put that love into action, sharing time and talent while showing people the true path to happiness and an eternity in heaven.
- **Journey towards heaven** – Our goal is joining God in heaven. We want that for our family and for all.

# **Christ Our Light Vision Process, Vision & Impact Statements**

## **Christ Our Light Eucharist Principle**

### *Impact Statement:*

The Christ Our Light Family of Parishes is a Eucharist-centered worshipping assembly focused on celebrating the liturgy with full, active, and conscious participation. Not only will we celebrate the liturgy well, we will be focused on catechesis, formation, and enrichment opportunities for our parish family.

### *Goals:*

- Liturgy is celebrated well through our reverence for the Eucharist, music done well, servers well trained and observing solemnity.
- Increase offerings of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Ensure all parishioners have the opportunity for adequate reconciliation times.
- Offer catechesis on Mass knowledge through refreshers, preaching series, and announcements.
- Provide follow-up with newly married couples by their mentor couples, for families who have recently celebrated a Baptism to ensure we don't lose them after these milestone moments.
- Celebrate couples who have been newly married by offering a blessing for married couples on World Marriage Day. Acknowledge our engaged couples by offering a blessing occasionally throughout the year.

## **Christ Our Light Church/Administration Principle**

### *Impact Statement:*

The future of Christ Our Light Family of Parishes involves identifying efficiencies across parish administrations, while preserving the unique identities of each parish. We are committed to open and transparent communication, maintaining consistencies among parishes, in the pursuit of the common good for all parishioners. Together we radiate Christ's light, fostering an inclusive and unified environment for all.

### *Goals:*

- As members of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Christ Our Light family of parishes acts in union with the universal Catholic Church.
- Provide common communication across administrations and across the parish family, through electronics, bulletins, and announcements.
- Create a common structure for all parish driven committees.
- Cultivate a welcoming environment through organized social events.
- Respect programs and customs of the individual churches.

# **Christ Our Light Vision Process, Vision & Impact Statements**

## **Christ Our Light Leadership Principle**

### *Impact Statement:*

Christ our Light Family of parishes will develop pastoral leadership structures and best practices that are sustainable by virtue of resources and well established policies and procedures.

### *Goals:*

- Create Christ our Light Family Leadership Team to assist the pastor in administration and pastoral duties. This team will provide input, effectively implement change and be a liaison to staff and councils to ensure the wellbeing of the family.
- Develop a Unified Parish Council with representation from all eight parishes. The council will consist of individuals who are faithful to the laws of the church, have a desire to actively participate, possess strong leadership qualities and are willing to listen, love and lead in the best interest of our parishioners.
- Establish commissions and leaders to coordinate best practices in worship, formation, administration, evangelization, stewardship, outreach, finance, communication, building and maintenance, etc
- Promote family communication strategies so all parishioners have the opportunity for input and know the direction in which we are going, while keeping all generations engaged in parish life.

## **Christ Our Light Stewardship Principle**

### *Impact Statement:*

As children of God, we are all blessed with unique talents. We call you to use your gifts to live as Christ commands by loving and serving God, Church, and our neighbors. We cultivate the joy of ministry and faith by making stewardship our daily way of life. With the help of the Holy Spirit, Christ's light shines through us.

### *Goals:*

- We are all good at something. Use the talents that God has blessed you with and trust that your gifts add value, as many hands make light work.
- Foster the joy in ministry and faith by making things fun and exciting while knowing, loving and serving God, Church and our neighbors.
- As good stewards of time, talent and treasure, we will cultivate stewardship, finance, and property/management commissions.
- The Holy Spirit is within us. Find time each day to listen to His promptings and let his light burn bright by making us an example.
- Create a catalog of our family's ministries and resource list that responds to our neighbors needs
- Enhance visibility through marketing and inviting people to stewardship
- Foster vocations to the priesthood, religious, married and single life

# **Christ Our Light Vision Process, Vision & Impact Statements**

## **Christ Our Light Evangelization Principle**

### *Impact Statement:*

In the spirit of the Apostles, we will meet people of all ages, where they are, to share the joy of the Gospel. We will help form a relationship with God to feel His unconditional love and continue to build Christ's church. Through fellowship and formation, we will empower families to go out and radiate Christ's love through works, actions and prayer. This will cultivate a strong foundation to share the light of Christ with others.

### *Goals:*

- Provide programs focusing on various age groups and life situations
- Provide continual support for married couples as they face life challenges
- Encourage high schoolers to be mentors for those in lower grades
- Provide Fellowship for student athletes that support the Catholic faith
- Provide support for those heading off to college
- Provide programs to the youth to build a strong relationship with Christ at early ages of life and provide continued support as they grow in their faith
- Provide programs that evangelize and will welcome people into the faith like RCIA.

This impact statement supports the Vision Statement by cultivating the faith among all which will in turn, radiate the Light of Christ.

## **Love in Action Impact Statement**

### *Impact Statement:*

Christ our Light Family instructs and reinforces our knowledge of Catholic social teaching and incorporates that knowledge into our formation programs from teens to adults. Inspired by the Spirit, we provide and sustain outreach programs that serve the vulnerable or marginalized. We organize and effectively communicate those ministries and outreach programs through a broad range of channels and make it very easy to contact us. To tighten our Family community, and prioritize resources, we create a central means to coordinate Love in Action efforts and work together on outreach.

### *Goals:*

- Form our youth (and adults) on the Catholic social teachings (current events)
- Develop leaders and religion teachers on social teaching
- Provide outreach programs to those who are sick, homebound, bereaved, elderly or in crisis as well as new neighbors and mothers
- Twin with other parishes in bigger cities or overseas with large social challenges and provide transparency on what was done with the money/time
- Partner with established organizations such as Rustic Hope, Do Good, and others already providing services
- Invite people to Mass and greet all. Take advantage of infrequent attendees with books giveaways or other seeds
- Communicate opportunities for outreach ministries and programs before mass, in the bulletin and through social media and email blasts
- Organize list of ministries with contact information that staff and priests can use/refer to
- Provide a central contact number/email for people in need to easily reach the church
- Provide a staff person or volunteer – Love in Action Coordinator – to direct and facilitate
- Cross pollinate Love in Action programs among 8 churches
- Initiate a Christ our Light Social Action Committee (Love in Action Committee)