

St. Anastasia Catholic Church Pastoral Plan

2022 - 2026



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Mission Statement

The Mission of Saint Anastasia Catholic Church is to give glory to God our Father as totally committed disciples of his Son, Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to answering the call of Jesus to serve all people by helping others, by embracing all who wish to share in God's graces, and by using our time, talent, and treasure in Jesus' name to grow in our Catholic faith.

Our Parish

St. Anastasia parish began as a mission church more than 35 years ago serving the southern part of Anastasia Island. Our first church was dedicated in 1988 and the parish rapidly grew. Our permanent church was dedicated in 1999, the Administration Building in 2001 and the St. Enda of Aran Formation Center was completed in 2018. From an initial group of about 25 Catholic families, the Parish has swelled to approximately 1,000 family units along with winter parishioners and thousands of vacationing visitors.

Our Parish's impact has grown far beyond its borders. In Jesus's name, we serve the homeless in St. Augustine, the migrant farm workers far to our west, the hungry all over St. Johns County, school children, and, through our prayers and donations, many others around the world.

This Five-Year Strategic Plan

The purpose of St. Anastasia's Strategic Plan is to provide a clear direction for moving forward in our vocations to live out our Catholic Faith. This plan is carefully linked to the strategy of the Diocese of St. Augustine in concert with its network of parishes. By setting clear goals and objectives, providing a path to achieving them, and holding ourselves accountable for making progress, we will, with God's help, continue to grow the parish to become a more influential part of His kingdom on earth.

Achieving our goals and objectives will bring new pilgrims to Christ, strengthen our individual faith, reinforce the bonds of our faith community, and, as we demonstrate our love for one another, allow us to share our faith and God's love with the world. Our goals and objectives are deliberately challenging. They will not be achieved easily, and they must be prioritized. Some may be achieved quickly while others may not be undertaken for several years.-Some may take the full five years to attain. Just as the last two years have brought unexpected challenges, we may need to adapt our timelines or change our goals or objectives to address unforeseen events. We humbly ask God to guide us along this path and seek his blessings at every turn.

We commit ourselves to this plan in faith, hope, love, humility, and an abandonment to follow God's plan.

Letter from Father Tim

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

From ongoing food and clothing collections, hospital and homebound visits, religious formation, life support groups to worship, and prayer groups, the St. Anastasia faith community seeks to be one in following the Lord's command to go and make disciples of all nations.

Together we continually strive to enrich our own lives, and thereby the life of our parish, so that all our brothers and sisters throughout St. Augustine and beyond may be able to encounter the living Christ. Developing a relationship with Him, nurtured in the Eucharistic celebrations, they will become entrepreneurs in the faith. At the heart of building this relationship with Christ is a thoroughly developed plan that can move our parish forward.

This plan, in keeping with the strategic plan of the Diocese of St. Augustine, focuses on formation, accompaniment and outreach. Formation ignites and fans the flame of desire to grow ever closer to Jesus Christ and the Church. Accompaniment nurtures, fosters, and mentors the faithful to live joyful and Eucharist centered lives. Outreach is the joyful sharing of our God given gifts for the common good of the Church and the world.

The following document explains the Pastoral planning process and presents the four goals and their accompanying objectives that will guide our work for the next five years as missionary disciples so that all may be one. It is my prayer that as we accomplish these goals all who come to St. Anastasia parish will encounter the living Lord and be the saints they were created to be.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

/Signature/

Rev. Timothy Lindenfelser, Pastor

The Strategic Planning Process

The process of writing this Strategic Plan began in September 2019. The key activities and milestones are captured below.

- Formed a strategic planning working group consisting of four Parish Council members and one Financial Council member. Reported to Father Tim, administrative staff, and the full Parish Council bimonthly.
- Reviewed Diocesan plan and requirements for parishes.
- Reviewed past plan and evaluated the parish performance in meeting plan goals and objectives.
- Considering the results of the evaluation, determined goals and objectives to maintain, eliminate or develop. Created a draft set of updated goals and objectives.
- Met with a Diocesan representative to present our initial draft and review our progress. Received a positive evaluation of efforts to date.
- In March 2020 progress stopped due to Covid-19 pandemic
- October 2020 the working group reconvened.
- A full review of the effect of the pandemic was initiated to determine its impact on the parish and implications for the strategic plan. The pandemic presented unique challenges as it was sometimes unclear how strongly it affected the parish and how long the effects would last. As of March 1, 2022, the parish and the diocese have not completely resumed pre-pandemic operations and liturgical activities.
- The plan's goals and objectives were restructured to accommodate the effects of the pandemic and other changes that occurred during the planning period (e.g., the addition of a parochial vicar).
- To improve the likelihood of successful execution of the plan, an *Implementation and Evaluation Plan* has been created as a companion document to this Strategic Plan. It will allow a systematic review and reporting of the parish's progress. Previous strategic planning did not include such an Implementation and Evaluation Plan.

The Strategic Plan 2022-2026 was presented to Father Tim Lindenfelser, Father Jared, parish staff, and the full council on April 5, 2022. The completed Plan was approved and submitted to the Diocese.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Communicate the message of the Gospel to the community to draw people into a close active relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Objective 1: Implement at least two programs to increase the number of people returning to regular mass attendance as the pandemic is controlled.

- Provide mailing to parishioners addressing safety and health concerns.
- Create *Welcome Back* religious and social events: Some targeted some for all.
- Develop a communication tool to allow for dialogue with those still absent.

Objective 2: Increase the number of **new** parishioners through at least three programs:

- Improve signage on A1A to draw attention to the parish and publicize mass times, confessions, special events, etc.
- Create and deliver welcome packets to new parishioners so they can feel accepted and active members of our faith community.
- Create a program focused on identifying and addressing specific needs of our winter parishioners.
- Place parish pamphlets in shopping centers near the parish.

Objective 3: Implement at least four programs/activities to encourage the return of lapsed parishioners, including:

- Implement a special welcome program at Christmas and Easter
- Implement an outreach program focused on family members at baptisms, weddings, and funerals.
- Create *Catholic Homecoming* pamphlet box for the Formation Building.
- Create a section on our website dedicated to lapsed Catholics.

Objective 4: Implement at least two programs to increase converts to the Catholic faith, including:

- Implement a program to appropriately promote Catholicism at our social events.
- Create a pamphlet for non-Catholics that explains who we are and what our parish does and implement a program to disseminate.

Goal 2: Foster the deepening relationship between Jesus Christ and His people within the Parish.

Objective 1: Increase the number of those completing the Marian Consecration program by 200%.

- Update the promotional materials to reflect the impact the program has had on participants.
- Increase the number of distribution channels for promotional materials.

Objective 2: Develop an awareness of the newly implemented GriefShare ministry.

- Reach out to those within and outside the Parish community who are grieving the loss of a loved one and provide them with comfort, answers, and hope.
- Provide support throughout the year using the GriefShare Christian based program.

Objective 3: Implement a program to provide couples ways to strengthen the Sacramental bonds of Marriage.

- Reach out to couples in different stages of marriage to complete a survey to help identify how to better assist them in strengthening the sacramental bonds of marriage
- Using the data provided, implement workshops, support, and education as needed.

Objective 4: Increase participation in the Middle School Youth Ministry.

- Promote participation in various ministries and raise the combined number of student service hours to 500 per year.
- Institute an annual summer trip to deepen their individual relationships with God and to encourage fellowship and shared values.

Objective 5: Provide ministerial activities for all high school youth.

- Promote Parish-related opportunities to acquire student service hours for a combined total of 500 service hours in the **2022-2023** academic year.
- Institute an annual trip to deepen their individual relationship with God and to encourage fellowship and shared values.

Goal 3: Nurture Parish ministries in the service of the of the Lord to be as effective as possible.

Objective 1: Identify and support all Parish ministries

- Clarify the mission of each ministry.
- Develop reporting procedures.
- Review data on participation and success.
- Evaluate ministries to determine needed level of support.

Goal 4: Manage and develop communication systems to reach at least 80% of St. Anastasia's parishioners to support strategic goals

Objective 1: Identify and evaluate all communication vehicles that reach parishioners.

Objective 2: Create at least two new communication tools for the parish, including:

- Develop and manage Parish Council Suggestion/Comment box in Narthex.
- Create a web-based version of the Parish Council Suggestion/Comment Box.
- Create one additional communication tool.

Implementation and Assessment Process

To support the effective execution of this strategic plan, a companion document, the *Implementation and Assessment Plan*, has been created. Our pastor, parish staff, and individual ministries can use this document as a guide when implementing a particular element or assessing progress. The *Implementation and Assessment Plan* will also provide a framework for priority setting and progress towards meeting our goals at the bi-monthly Parish Council meetings and for semi-annual and annual reports.

Plan Contributors

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Rev. Jared De Leo, Vicar

Administrative Staff

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Parish Pastoral Council Members

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