

MOMENTUM

A Report on Progress under our Strategic Plan



KNOW GROW GO
Fall 2022

ST MAURICE
PARISH

Dear Parish Family

Glory to God for His many blessings upon us. As we begin advancing on our way with the strategic plan for the next five years, it is important to track and report on our progress. This is the first of three reports from Parish Council to be presented between now and July of next year. There is still a lot to be done to achieve our goals and objectives, but it is good to recognize and celebrate our successes thus far. God is so faithful to us, and I know that He has so much more for us to experience and to explore. Let us faithfully keep praying our parish prayer throughout this year. Come, Holy Spirit.

Special thanks to all who signed up at the Get Involved! event, and to everyone who is making a contribution to our parish life. We're in this together!

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Tim, Pastor



Dear Parishioners

In June 2022, Parish Council released "Know Grow Go: A Strategic Plan for St. Maurice, 2022-2027". Knowing how important it is for everyone in the parish to receive good information about parish undertakings and to appreciate what the Lord is doing among us as we work toward the vision He has placed before us, we embedded in the strategic plan the objective to "communicate progress under the strategic plan three times per year." This report

is our first effort to meet this objective. It reports progress under the headings of our "purpose areas" for parish renewal and follows the sequence of goals presented in the plan. We hope it encourages you and confirms that God has begun a new work in our parish to help us all become missionary disciples, wholly devoted to loving and serving Him.

Your Parish Council



The Sunday Experience

In recent months, Fr. Tim, Dcn. Kevin, and I have been preaching more intentionally to support the mission and vision. My August homily on hospitality is an example. To help us dig down into certain topics and themes, we're offering occasional preaching series, like our three-week series in September on starting the new ministry year strong and rooted in prayer. We're also revamping our parish organizational chart to strengthen collaboration among liturgical ministries, which will help us communicate with

each other more effectively and support each other better in our different roles. New people have joined these ministries and are now being trained. We want to keep building a better Sunday experience for everyone, so we're developing key metrics for the Core Team to evaluate this experience on a regular basis, attentive to what God is doing and how people are responding.

Fr. Marcus, Associate Pastor, Team Lead for Worship, Sacraments and Prayer



We're happy to welcome back many of our singers and musicians to music ministry and have also added some new members, like Anthony Bella, who plays drums at the Sunday 9:00 Mass. If you're an experienced musician, we need you on one of our worship teams!

Glenn Pereira, Music



Integrate Prayer Ministries and Build Prayer Support for the Parish

Parish Prayer Ministries

Prayer ministry leaders have been meeting since November 2021 to get to know each other and explore ways to give people more opportunities to open their hearts and encounter Jesus through prayer. As a result, praise and worship evenings have expanded; eucharistic adoration has re-opened in the church, with more hours during the early mornings and on Tuesdays; and the turnout at prayer events is growing, as seen at the September prayer vigil to honour the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Debbie Smith, Prayer Coordinator

Conversational Prayer with the Lord

Many of us would like to develop a deeper, more disciplined prayer life, but there are so many “styles” of prayer out there that it’s hard to know where to start. We may have grown up saying traditional prayers like the Our Father or the rosary, but we also long to talk to the Lord from our hearts and hear His voice, just as we would with a friend. I am currently running a pilot prayer course called “Dialogue with God”, which selects from seven different prayer models to teach and model two-way conversational prayer with the Lord. Building on the results of the pilot, which ends in December, my aim is to introduce this course as a step in our discipleship pathway and make it available more broadly in the new year.

Avery Burrowes,
Team Lead for Discipleship and Evangelization

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

Revelation 3:20



Prayer for the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

We want to begin all parish undertakings by inviting the Holy Spirit and expecting Him to act. On our St. Maurice feast day weekend, we introduced a new parish prayer, which we have since prayed at the beginning of each

Sunday Mass. Ministry groups are encouraged to begin their meetings and activities with this prayer. You may find this prayer a helpful addition to your daily personal prayer, inviting God to pour His Holy Spirit into your heart so

that you can grow in your trust in Him and wholeheartedly say yes to His holy will in your own life.

Fr. Tim, Pastor



Surge

A special gathering for praise and adoration has taken place occasionally on Friday nights. We lift our voices in praise to God, acknowledging His goodness to us. These gatherings have been...

REBRANDED - as Surge

EXPANDED - to include individual healing through confession and personal ministry by prayer teams.

RELAUNCHED - effective October 14, on the second Friday of every month.

Regather and Rebuild Post-Pandemic

The pandemic was a difficult time for us to stay connected as a parish. As restrictions have been lifted, people have begun to return to Mass and participate in activities and ministries as they come onstream again. The steady buzz of laughter and conversation as people meet for the coffee social in the atrium after 9:00 Mass shows how hungry we all are to be together and catch up with each other. If you really want to feel like you're part of our parish, sign up for a ministry! Try out a week-day event! Dcn. Kevin has been posting ministry starts and restarts on Constant Contact, and you can also check the new events calendar on our parish website.



Be Inviting and Invitational

Our priests regularly invite us to go deeper in our relationship with the Lord and to become involved in the parish beyond Sunday Mass. They also invite us to invite others – for coffee and maybe to a parish social event, Alpha, or Mass. Think of it this way: you may be the one that God wants to use in the life of another person to bring them to an encounter with Him. You just need to invite them! Read the story of the Piché family for a real-life account of friendship and invitation in action.

*Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.
Matthew 22:9*

New to the Parish

Our family joined St. Maurice Parish this past Easter, when three of us were baptized and I received the sacrament of confirmation. As I look back now, it is pretty incredible to see all of the different people and events that led us to this church.

We first heard about St. Maurice Parish a number of years ago, through friends that we met at our daughters' activities and through neighbours on our street. We were struck by the kindness of these families and the importance they placed on their faith. At the time, we were attending a Protestant church.

During the pandemic we felt like the Lord was inviting us to find a new church. We started thinking back to some of the conversations we had with those families and wondered, "What is St. Maurice Parish all about?" As a first step, we checked out the website and saw that there were a ton of wonderful ministries - Alpha, Children's Liturgy, and a vibrant worship program. Then, we started tracking along with the online masses and reached out to Fr. Marcus, who graciously answered many questions we had about Catholicism. We decided to join RCIA in the fall and completed the program in June.

We have enjoyed getting to know people on a deeper level over the past few months and we are becoming more connected at the church. Our children joined Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and my husband and I have been invited into small groups currently doing Bible studies. We look forward to all that God has in store for us at this church, and we give Him all the glory for the way He has blessed us through it.

Leah Piché, New Parishioner





New Vision for Hospitality

As a first step in team building, 13 people interested in forming a hospitality or event-planning team were invited by parish council to gather on October 15. Together we prayed, explored the role of hospitality in the strategic plan as the “front end” of the discipleship pathway, and brainstormed ideas for actions that will support our vision of being a warm and welcoming community where everyone is valued and finds their place. At a follow-up work session on October 2, two working groups were formed to move forward with priority actions. A team of greeters led by Julia Muggeridge is already in place, offering words of welcome as you arrive for a weekend Mass. Please join us in praying for just the right person to hear and answer the Lord’s call to lead this multi-faceted team as the hospitality coordinator.



*Be hospitable to one another without complaining.
1 Peter 4:9*



Finding Your Ministry Niche

The Get Involved! appeal was held on the weekend of September 17-18. The goal was to invite participation in the wide variety of ministries starting up for the year, many of which were dormant throughout the pandemic. In response to our objectives to “regularly communicate ministry opportunities and needs” and to “increase lay service involvement”, we showcased many opportunities to get involved at St. Maurice. A brochure handed out the week before described over 40 different ministries, some well established and some just in the planning stages. After every weekend Mass, parishioners were able to speak with ministry representatives. More than 60 parishioners signed up at the ministry fair or through the website during the weeks following. We are now committed to training and mentoring these folks in the ministries they’ve chosen.

Deacon Kevin O’Shea

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10a*

Discerning Spiritual Gifts

One way for a person to discover their charism(s) for service is to participate in a spiritual gifts workshop. Such a workshop usually includes completing a spiritual gifts inventory, followed by an opportunity to test the charism by participating in a related ministry. We are currently assembling a group to research the options and begin planning and organizing a workshop for fall 2023.

Apply Effective Models and Methods to Develop a Discipleship Pathway

Discipleship and evangelization are the main thrust of any parish seeking renewal. Hiring a team lead for this combined purpose area is a priority objective under the strategic plan. Avery Burrowes was hired in this role and began work in August 2022.

It has been a busy fall in the areas of discipleship and evangelization. Alpha began in September, with many returning from the January Alpha to participate in the leadership pathway from guest to table helper to table host. In October we had our first Surge worship night, which offered people an opportunity to encounter Jesus. We've made the decision to temporarily pause CCO faith studies in the parish but will revisit them soon. We are working with ministry leaders and staff to develop a discipleship pathway and expect to share details before the end of the year. Finally, young adult ministry in the parish and at Algonquin College is under way.

Avery Burrowes, Team Lead for Discipleship and Evangelization

One of the ways the Lord has been working to revitalize the mission of His Church in Ottawa has been to gather mission-oriented people together within the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. "Missional Momentum" is the name given to this gathering of mission-oriented pastors and parish staff to discuss the Church's mission and our path forward in the archdiocese. It has been a blessing for me and our priests to participate, offer feedback, and begin collaborating on an archdiocesan scale. The current focus is developing discipleship pathways that can be used within our own parishes and serve as guides for other parishes within the archdiocese.

A second group that has emerged brings together lay parish workers with similar positions to mine, all of them hired by parishes over the past 6-8 months. Seven of us, representing both parishes and the archdiocese, currently meet monthly for fellowship, prayer, resource sharing, and collaboration among our parish communities.

Avery Burrowes, Team Lead for Discipleship and Evangelization

We are beginning the process of reaching out to Algonquin College and its Spiritual Centre to serve the needs of Catholic students there, some of whom are parishioners. This college, located within our parish boundaries and only a 20-minute walk from St. Maurice, serves a student population of 21,000 mostly young people who live in an increasingly secular world and who need Jesus. Without any Roman Catholic ministry on campus at this time, Algonquin offers an amazing opportunity to share the gospel. We want to help their students to encounter Christ, to know Him, grow as His disciples, and go out to share Him with their friends. It is the young who will bring the gospel to the next generation!

Michael Horianopoulos, Seminarian Intern at St. Maurice

We are currently exploring the addition of a small-groups ministry to our discipleship pathway. A small group consists of usually four to eight people who meet regularly for praise and worship, fellowship, study and discussion, and prayer. It may also serve as a launch pad for service and evangelization. Meetings typically take place in homes or online. After Easter we ran a small-groups pilot program that involved people who had just completed the winter Alpha course, led by Alpha leaders. Five groups totaling 32 participants met weekly or biweekly on Zoom. One group discussed the video series "The Search". Four groups completed "Discovery", the first study in Catholic Christian Outreach's faith study series. Both leaders and participants reviewed the pilot very positively, underlining the need for Alpha grads to have something to move onto next and for everyone in the parish to have access to a small-group experience. Stay tuned for further development on this in the new year.

Joan Gregorich, Chair, Parish Council

Enhance Parish Resources

Hiring an HR manager was a priority objective in this purpose area. Carol Gariepy was hired in this role and began work in August 2022.

Through intentional listening and observing people and processes in various parish capacities, my initial focus as the new HR Manager has been to identify gaps and develop supports in Human Resources best practices, office management processes, and communications strategies. To this end, I have initiated federally and provincially regulated compliance training, communications, and policies development. I am researching Human Resources Information System platforms to create efficiencies in onboarding, training, and leadership development and to support secure record-keeping. I am also collaborating with office staff and ministry leaders to improve communication, research people-management systems, develop planning tools, and clarify accountabilities and reporting streams.

Carol Gariepy, HR Manager

Gerry Orcia was hired as a part-time operations assistant in September and is now working as a valued member of the operations team. Gerry's primary role is to assist the operations coordinator in ensuring that the interior and exterior of the parish, administration, and rectory buildings and properties are safe, secure, clean, well-maintained, and well-functioning. Welcome, Gerry!

The care, maintenance, and use of our building and equipment is important to us because they support the ministries and activities that will help move us toward our vision. For example, a new walkway and stairs enhance the safety and welcome at the front entrance, and Wi-Fi has been upgraded to meet user needs. Last month we were introduced through Constant Contact to a new feedback mechanism

called an "Operations Request". You can use this button, now on our website, to report something that you've seen around the parish that needs cleaning, repair, or replacement. Your request will be directed to Claire Schultz, our parish operations coordinator.

Use Best Practices for Internal and External Communications

Building a Comms Team

Good communication is one of the best ways for us to stay connected as a parish family. Over the summer months and early fall a small group of parishioners with diverse communications skill sets and a variety of experience have come forward to form a communications team. They met for the first time on October 24. In this first year of activating the strategic plan, they will undertake the work of drafting a communications plan and creating tools to promote the mission and vision. A new calendar of parish events is now available on the parish website for parishioners to locate information and learn of opportunities to become involved in parish life.

Glenn Pereira, Communications Coordinator

Expand the Budget

Finance Update

The Finance Council has been busy coordinating the re-launch of regular weekly Sunday collections, including the distribution of envelopes and training of money counters, as well as researching new contactless methods of giving. We hope to make the re-launch effective in Advent. We are continuing to plan strategically for the financial future of the parish. With our recent staff hires and increased parish activities, we are working at developing a budget that will enable us to adequately fund our parish vision. Stay tuned for more details!

Chris Zettel, Finance Council



*Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands -
O prosper the work of our hands!*

Psalm 90:17

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