



# CATHEDRAL BASILICA of the Assumption

## Pastoral Plan Progress Update

February 2025

Dear Parishioner:

I am pleased to share this update of the implementation of the pastoral plan, which was born from your input to the DMI survey of 2023. The entire plan can be viewed at [www.covcathedral.com](http://www.covcathedral.com). The planning team continues to work hard and I encourage you to participate in these initiatives. God bless you!

-Fr. Maher

### Priority 1: Enhance Faith Formation and Discipleship

#### **Desired Outcomes:**

- The entire congregation grows in their knowledge of the Catholic faith.
- Parishioners have the confidence and ability to share the faith and help others encounter Jesus through evangelization.

#### **Progress Update:**

- In July 2024, the parish made FORMED: a robust online service of Catholic media and resources available to all parishioners.
- In November 2024, the Cathedral Home Faith Communities were formed with two parish households choosing to serve as the first two pilot groups that will begin to meet in February 2025.
- In 2024, Deacon Jerry Franzen published a series of bulletin articles on the parts of the Mass.
- The introduction of time for faith sharing has been incorporated into parish events and parish meetings.
- Over the last two years, the Saturday morning faith sharing prayer group has grown in membership.

### Priority 2: Build a Welcoming Community for Jesus Christ

#### **Desired Outcomes:**

- Every parishioner feels inspired to welcome others.
- More parishioners become involved with parish activities/ministries.

#### **Progress Update:**

- A Welcome Committee was formed in June 2024 and meets regularly. The committee developed a resource guide to help mentor parishioners connect with newly registered parishioners.
- In January 2025, the Welcome Committee members began reaching out to newly registered parishioners.
- In January 2025, an updated '360 degree Virtual Tour' of the Cathedral on the parish website, along with a new link on the website that allows a lossless zoom of the Marian window, was launched.
- A new Self-Guided Audio Tour book is being created for people to take a self-guided tour of the Cathedral using the new guide book and audio tour using a cell phone.

### Priority 3: Enhance Parish Communication

#### **Desired Outcomes:**

- Parishioners are better informed about parish offerings, opportunities, and events.
- There are multiple, efficient means of communication.

#### **Progress Update:**

- In May 2023, *Evangelus*, a new communications platform to communicate with parishioners more effectively and creatively, was launched.
- In June 2024, the myParish Cathedral app was launched as an additional means of communication with parishioners.
- Parishioners now receive an email notice for a parishioner funeral encouraging prayer for the deceased.