

It is God who is at work within
YOU... shine like stars
in the world. *Philippians 2:13, 15*

Living Lights

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Spiritual Vision

A Five-Year Parish Plan

October 2025 through September 2030

Vision Statement:

To be a beacon of light radiating Christ's love throughout Elk Grove

Mission Statement:

*We are a vibrant Catholic Community that invites people to Jesus, forms disciples,
and sends the faithful to transform the world.*

What does it mean to be missionary disciples?

Christ himself describes it in his great commission "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). This great commissioning has been given to the universal church and the people of God, to proclaim the Good News and bear much fruit. This New Evangelization is to ultimately make the people of God as missionary disciples and draw others to Christ and his Church. (Living as Missionary Disciples, USCCB)

Encounter

Come experience an encounter with Jesus and learn how He can enrich your life with meaning and purpose.

Accompany

Become part of a community where you feel welcomed, informed, and encouraged. We would love to hear your story.

Community

Create spaces and opportunities to go beneath the surface and share our lives together with those who encounter Jesus.

Send

Be Jesus wherever you go. Our mission does not stop at the walls of the church.

1. THE MASS – MAKING SUNDAY MASS A PRIORITY

The Ideal State

- Parishioners encounter Christ in the Sacred Liturgy – the source and summit of our faith
- Parishioners are drawn in to joyfully participate in the sacred liturgy
- The beauty of the services and environment evangelizes participants

Five-year Goals

- Foster an understanding of the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist
- Facilitate an understanding of the Mass experience
- Engage, educate, and inspire with scripture and homiletics
- Provide a pathway for those searching for answers and seeking God
- Create a welcoming atmosphere for all who attend Mass
- Create an atmosphere of beauty in church services and the sanctuary

2. FORMATION – Pursuing a life-long journey of faith formation

The Ideal State

- Opportunities exist for all parishioners to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and grow in their relationship with Christ
- Every parishioner is encouraged to pursue a life long journey of faith formation
- All parishioners are equipped and motivated to evangelize others

Five-year Goals

- Develop faith formation programs for all ages
- Inform and connect parishioners with diocesan and national resources for individual and communal faith formation
- Use small groups to accompany individuals on their faith journey
- Evaluate the implementation of “The Rescue Project” (Father John Ricardo)
- Evaluate the implementation of an “Alpha” program

3. YOUNG FAMILIES – Supporting families in understanding the importance of their Catholic faith

The Ideal State

- Young families are supported and inspired to know and love their Catholic faith
- Faith formation is embraced as an integral part of family life
- Spirituality, social engagements, and service are combined into engaging activities

Five-year Goals

- Faith formation programs are family centered and supported by the parish
- Family friendly events are held throughout the year
- Childcare needs are addressed
- Families with special needs children are supported
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School and Catholic Faith Formation families are fully welcomed into the parish community
- Small groups formed to support extended families in their faith journey



4. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS – Ensuring their integral part in parish life

The Ideal State

- Youth and young adults are integrated into parish life for both religious and social engagement and growth
- Peer group activities support commitment to the faith and enhance opportunities for leadership development
- Youth and young adults are represented throughout parish ministries

Five-year Goals

- Invite young adults to participate in the life of the parish
- Provide a safe environment for youth to socialize with other faith focused peers
- Encourage youth to serve as liturgical ministers
- Foster opportunities (invitations) for youth to participate in parish ministries
- Mentor individuals to assume leadership roles
- Promote diocesan and deanery activities to foster a sense of community with other youth in the diocese

5. LEADERSHIP – Building and developing Christian leaders

The Ideal State

- All ministries of the parish actively build and develop leaders

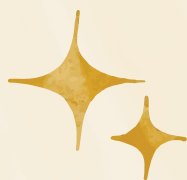
Five-year Goals

- Parish builds up and provides oversight for existing leaders
- Parish ministries work actively for both the success of their ministry as well as the development of leaders
- Individuals are invited to participate in ministries and encouraged to take on leadership roles

We are **Living Lights**, called upon by God to shine like stars. In this Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, we align with the call to be missionary disciples. The parish's spiritual vision activates within us meaning and purpose. We are children of God, chosen and blessed. Here, we respond to what he asks of us, perpetuating the bright light of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

It is God who is at work within YOU... shine like stars in the world.

Philippians 2:13,15



NEXT-LEVEL DISCIPLESHIP

Journeying together as missionary disciples means stepping forward in intentional stewardship of our Catholic faith. Embracing the pillars of discipleship – encounter, accompany, community and send – we illuminate the paths of others. We serve as **Living Lights**, allowing God's work to shine through us.

Good Shepherd Parish's spiritual vision for the next five years invites us to examine whether we serve as beacons of light, radiating Christ's love throughout Elk Grove. Do we truly invite people to Jesus, form disciples and send the faithful out to transform the world?

LET'S BEGIN NOW!

- Next-level missionary discipleship occurs individually and communally!
- Please review the parish plan and prayerfully discern what may resonate with you.
- Consider *your* personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Consider Jesus' words to "make disciples" (Mt. 28:19).
- Reflect on sharing the Good News, bearing fruit, and drawing others to Christ and His Church.

THIS IS THE **HOURL** OF LIGHT!

LET US BRING IT INTO THE SHADOWS!

Is Christ's light apparent in me? Do others see it?
Am I stewarding that light as a missionary disciple?

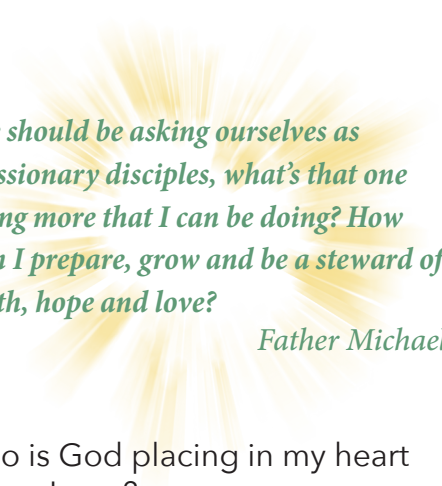
Give it a few hours a week. Let Christ work within you.

1 Hour of Prayer – Give God one hour of prayer. Spend time listening to Him, reading scripture, and adoring Him.

Who does God want me to reach out to in love and service? Who is God placing in my heart that needs a word of encouragement or an invitation to encounter Jesus?

1 Hour of Talent – Give back to God the talents and gifts he gave you. What are your strengths and capabilities? Offer these to God and neighbor, building up the Kingdom of God, volunteering from your heart and knowing it is God's work within you.

1 Hour of your Treasure – Give to God and contribute funds to support the ministerial work of the parish. The disciples of Jesus' day likewise depended on the generosity of the faithful to carry out their mission. What is one hour of treasure? One hour of wages per week? Hypothetically, stretching to our limits for God as Living Lights, if every disciple managed \$30 per week, Good Shepherd Parish would steward more than \$500,000 a month!



We should be asking ourselves as missionary disciples, what's that one thing more that I can be doing? How can I prepare, grow and be a steward of faith, hope and love?

Father Michael