OUR COLLABORATIVE MISSION

Our mission as the Catholic Parishes of Stoughton is to foster joy in the hearts of all who walk through our doors so that each person may develop a deep relationship with our triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

To fulfill our mission, as disciples of the Good Shepherd, we seek out those who are lost, those who have strayed, and those who have never known Him, that they also may experience the joy that brings such meaning and purpose to our lives.

By coming together in prayer, by increasing our involvement in liturgy and ministry, and through our care for the poor, we truly become “disciples in mission.”

“\textit{I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly.}” (John 10:10)
OUR COLLABORATIVE VISION

Christ is the light of the world and through our baptism we are called to be “children of the light.” We envision our collaborative as a place where all can be nourished by Christ, healed by Christ, and emboldened through our personal witness, to be His light to the world. We need Jesus. The world needs Jesus. We need our spiritual homes to grow and flourish so that all who gather here can know the light, peace, and joy that comes through a deep and personal friendship with Jesus Christ.

Imagine...

that if every time you walked into Saint James & Immaculate Conception you were embraced with an overwhelming feeling of hope, love, compassion, respect, & acceptance.

if our faith community was to flourish in such a way that more people brought Jesus into their daily personal lives outside of our Church walls.

what would happen if each of us made a conscious effort to offer even the smallest piece of our God-given gifts to strengthen our community and build up our church.

what our community would be like if we had the resources to support all of our evangelization efforts.

Our hope is to work together towards this vision guided by the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ in each of our hearts. Together we can make our vision a reality.
OUR COLLABORATIVE PURPOSE

The parish is where our faith in Christ is both lived and renewed. Our purpose, as the Catholic Parishes of Stoughton, is to proclaim the Gospel, to celebrate the sacraments and to invite people into a personal relationship with Christ through prayer and joyful worship.

We will strive to create a vital, welcoming Catholic faith community that embraces each person. Together, we will promote our rich diversity and traditions. We will seek opportunities to share our faith so that we may serve our Lord with kindness, humility, and love.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32)
OUR COLLABORATIVE VALUES

Mother Teresa once said, “Joy is a net by which we catch souls.” The Christian life is, ultimately, a joyful life fed by a deep and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior. We strive to bring this joy to all people by making our defined values a part of every aspect of parish life. The vitality of our collaborative is dependent upon our ability to make this joy visible through . . .

† Faith & Prayer
† Hope
† Compassion & Respect
† Community & Fellowship
† Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and in all sacraments
† Continue to grow in our personal faith journey and share this journey with others
† Foster an appreciation of God’s word through sacred scripture, prayer, and personal testimonies of faith
† Offer opportunities for children, adults, and families to develop a deeper appreciation and knowledge of our beliefs through faith formation
† Attend vibrant Masses as an active Catholic participant
† Make faith the center of our family life
† Seek guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit as we discern His plan for our parishes

“Faith is substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen.”
(Hebrews 11:1)
HOPE

† Awaken and deepen a personal relationship with Jesus to sustain us through difficult times
† Encourage a positive and optimistic outlook concerning the growth and future of our Church

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.”
(Romans 15:13)

COMPASSION/RESPECT

† Embrace people of all ages, at all levels of faith, and through all stages of life
† Provide compassionate emotional and spiritual support to those in need
† Offer a comforting environment for those who desire to live their relationship with Jesus Christ more fully
† Support, encourage, and guide those who are seeking to begin a Christian life

“Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
(Ephesians 4:32)
COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP

† Create and be a welcoming community
† Encourage parishioners to meet and greet others
† Share each community’s traditions, unique perspectives, and spiritual gifts
† Serve the greater community through our outreach ministry programs
† Give training and tools to those who desire to reach out and help others to be disciples of Jesus
† Promote stewardship as a way of life focusing on giving our time, individual expertise, our voice, our networks, and our financial support to build up our communities

“...then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one spirit, and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:2)
OUR COLLABORATIVE PRIORITIES

PRIORITY: ENHANCE THE WEEKEND MASS EXPERIENCE

“And the two recounted what had taken place on the way, and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” (Luke 24:35)

The Sunday liturgy is the center and focus of our faith community. It is the place where we most frequently come together as the Body of Christ, in both our prayer and in our celebration of the Eucharist. Our efforts at outreach are dependent upon the quality of a Sunday experience that makes an individual want to return again and become part of this living community. Therefore, the Mass is our key priority.

**Goal:** Formation of a Liturgical Committee for each parish by December 3, 2017, the First Sunday of Advent

**Milestones**

† Define the responsibilities of a liturgical committee by November 27, 2016, the First Sunday of Advent
† Identify and invite the parishioners to comprise the liturgical committee by January 1, 2017, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
† Announce the official commencement of the committee March 1, 2017, Ash Wednesday
**Goal:** Establish a “Welcome and Hospitality” ministry by April 16, 2017, Easter Sunday

**Milestones**

† Utilize the RCAB Development Office and The Catholic Parishes of Stoughton Development Team to help train individuals for this ministry

† Use parish bulletin and announcements to invite people to join the new ministry by November 27, 2016, the First Sunday of Advent

† Hold a series of training sessions for those interested in this ministry (throughout 2016)

† Develop greeting committee for weekend liturgies by June 4, 2017, Pentecost Sunday

† Initiate giving of “welcome baskets” to new parishioners by June 4, 2017, Pentecost Sunday

† Establish 4-6 new after-Mass events throughout the year to build community by May 20, 2018, Pentecost Sunday
PRIORITY: ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT VOCATIONS TO THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to bear fruit that will remain..." (John 9:16)

Families that pray and worship together grow in lives of discipleship where the discernment of one's God-given vocation, including a vocation to the priesthood, is a natural fruit. As the Catholic Parishes of Stoughton, we will commit to intentionally foster vocations to the Archdiocese of Boston from within our parish families.

**Goal:** Create a Collaborative Vocations Team that is intentional about fostering vocations through prayer, awareness, and invitation by May 7, 2017, Good Shepherd Sunday

**Milestones:**

† Invite individuals who have hosted the Good Shepherd icon or who have expressed interest in promoting vocations to join this committee by March 1, 2017, Ash Wednesday

† Invite fifty new families to host the Good Shepherd Icon in their homes for a designated week and ask that they pray for vocations to the priesthood by August 4, 2017, the Feast of St. John Vianney

† Invite Director of Vocations (or the Assistant Directors of Vocations) for the Archdiocese of Boston to celebrate Sunday liturgies at both parishes by August 4, 2017, the Feast of St. John Vianney

† Invite Seminarians to give witness talks to Religious Education students by the end of the Religious Education year 2017/18
Goal: Develop a vocation website for the collaborative by April 22, 2018, Good Shepherd Sunday

Milestones:

† Create a link to the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Boston website by August 4, 2017, the Feast of St. John Vianney

† Design a page on our collaborative website with short, personal narratives about vocations from our collaborative clergy, deacon, and seminarian by August 14, 2017, the feast of St. Maximillian Kolbe.

† Attach both of these websites to multiple social media venues to create awareness in our Stoughton Catholic community by January 31, 2018, the Feast of St. John Bosco

PRIORITY: SUSTAIN A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP BY DEVELOPING A SECURE FINANCIAL FOUNDATION.

“As each of us has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (Peter 4: 10)

In order to fulfill our Collaborative Mission and to meet the charge given to us by Jesus Christ – “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19) - it is necessary to have a strong financial foundation to support our evangelization efforts.

Goal: Increase by 10% the number of registered families that are committed to consistently contributing financial support by January 1, 2018, the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
**Milestones**

† Work with the RCAB Development Office and the Catholic Parishes of Stoughton Development Team to develop an in-pew census weekend by September 21, 2016, the Feast of Saint Matthew

† Update the census for each parish in ConnectNow and identify the current base for regular support by January 1, 2018, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

† Begin the planning of the RCAB Development suggested pledge system by April 16, 2017, Easter Sunday

† Have an implanted pledge tracking procedure by July 1, 2017

† Established a yearly procedure with the Development Team on how to continue the census & pledge programs each year by July 1, 2017

**Goal:** Achieve a balanced operating budget at both Parishes by June 30, 2019

**Milestones**

† Foster a spirit of ownership through the establishment of a Collaborative Development Team by January 1, 2017, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

† With the guidance of this team, as well as the parish finance councils and Boston Catholic Development Services, establish plan to seek annual pledges by April 16, 2017, Easter Sunday

† Convert annual financial reports and budget into a format which highlights the ministries in each parish and shows how offertory support is essential to fulfilling our mission by September 21, 2017, the Feast of Saint Matthew

† Increase operating efficiency of facilities through selected capital development projects by July 1, 2018
PRIORITY: ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We seek to form disciples to spread the good news and to build the Kingdom of God. This begins by supporting each person in developing and strengthening their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

“In the same way your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Goal: Provide adult faith formation program designed to help individuals grow in their knowledge of their Christian faith, by December 8, 2017, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Milestones

† Consult with individuals within parish or outside group (such as the Neocatecumenal Way) to plan and conduct a pilot adult faith formation program by January 28, 2017, the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas
† Begin adult faith formation program by August 28, 2017, the Feast of St. Augustine
† Consult with the archdiocese to help plan and provide leadership for a Bible study program (or programs) within the collaborative by September 30, 2017, the Feast of St. Jerome
† Begin Bible study program (or programs) by November 4, 2017, the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo

Goal: Promote spiritual development opportunities (such as collaborative-wide retreats and small group faith-sharing gatherings) to help individuals deepen their friendship with Jesus that they may see themselves as His disciples and confidently be His evangelizers, by September 8, 2017, the Nativity of Mary
† Consult with Archdiocese of Boston’s Office of Lifelong Faith Formation and Parish Support to plan and organize small-group faith sharing within the Catholic Parishes of Stoughton by October 1, 2016, the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux

† Institute at least two of these programs by January 25, 2017, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

† Consult with Archdiocese of Boston’s Office of Lifelong Faith Formation and Parish Support, as well as outside groups to help plan and organize Scripture Study groups within the Catholic Parishes of Stoughton by October 1, 2016, the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux

† Begin Bible study program (or programs) by January 25, 2017, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle