

FALL
2025



FAMILY PATHWAY REPORT

For St. Gaspar Family of Parishes

OUR PURPOSE

As a diverse, welcoming Catholic family rooted in the Precious Blood of Jesus, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we provide spiritual direction through God's Word and His Sacraments to guide our community to live as disciples of Jesus, who share His love and Good News.



OUR VISION

We will be a vibrant, worshipping, sacrificial Catholic family who loves God and sees dignity in all humanity. As we are fed by the Eucharist and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we will grow in our relationship with Jesus and serve those in our community.

OUR JOURNEY TOWARD UNITY

Beacons of Light is far more than a reorganization of parishes into Families; it is a call to renewal. Its true purpose is to inspire new life within our parishes, deepen our passion for Christ and the Catholic faith, and awaken a more fervent missionary spirit. To help us grow toward this vision, each Family of Parishes is required to develop and annually submit a pastoral plan for vitality, reviewed by the dean and approved by the archbishop in accordance with the Pastoral Planning Pathway. After review by our Pastor, Fr. Tony Fortman, our combined Parish and Finance Councils and our Family Leadership Team, St. Gaspar Family of Parishes submitted our plan to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on October 30, 2025.

We are working toward canonical unification by July 2027, discerning how best to unify our worship, ministries, and leadership for the sake of the Gospel. We are also uniquely blessed to be supported not only by Beacons of Light but also through our partnership with the Catholic Leadership Institute's Next Generation Parish initiative. With the guidance of our dedicated Implementation Team, combined councils, and Family Leadership Team, we are actively advancing our Pastoral Priority Plan, ensuring a strong foundation for spiritual growth and parish vitality.

This Family Pathways Report summarizes what we have experienced and accomplished together over the past year and outlines our shared hopes and goals for the year ahead. We want to invite you to read it with great interest and prayer, knowing that it reflects our ongoing response to the Holy Spirit and our commitment to a vibrant future as one united parish family.

The Beacons of Light principles help parishes grow stronger in faith and more vibrant in action. These six principles: Church, Eucharist, Evangelization, Stewardship, Leadership, and Love in Action, serve as essential pillars that sustain the life and mission of every Catholic community.



PARISH PICNIC

On Sunday, August 10, 2025, our Family of Parishes gathered for our first annual parish picnic. The picnic was held on St. Paul's grounds, using the generous outdoor space and pole barn on their campus. This event was supported by our two Knights of Columbus Councils, which donated beverages and grilled the food. Guests from all six of our parishes attended, and we welcomed over 500 people to enjoy a perfect summer afternoon with their fellow parishioners.

*Learn more about
Beacons of Light
and Pathways!*



*Scan the QR Code
or visit:
pathway.catholicaoc.org*

PASTORAL PLANNING PRINCIPLES - PROGRESS AND PLANS

As a Family, we are intentionally embracing the principle of Church and the Eucharist. Our Implementation Team and Family Leadership Team continue to foster collaboration across parishes through shared picnics and missions, as well as coordinated sacramental celebrations. Youth and Adult Faith Formation have been strengthened through combined OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, VBS (Vacation Bible School), and adult enrichment programs. These visible signs of vitality reassure us that, even in transition, our family is growing closer as one body.

We completed our Pastoral Priority Plan, rolled it out across all six parishes, and formed Implementation Teams to realize our goals: Unity, Encounter, Faith Formation, and Communication. Nearly all Family Leadership positions are now filled, with only the Communications Director and Director of Administration remaining open. This structure, combined with regular leadership meetings, positions us well for the ongoing journey toward canonical unification in 2027.

Our stewardship principle continues to guide practical improvements and cultural shifts. We have refreshed parish entrances to be more welcoming, launched ministry fairs to invite renewed commitment, and are preparing for a “Legacy Fair” to help parishioners reflect on lasting impact. The upcoming LIFT offertory program will be critical to sustaining parish life, especially as offertory giving and specific significant donations remain areas of concern.

Evangelization remains central to our mission. Through digital outreach, family-centered catechesis, and intentional hospitality, we are reaching out again to those who drifted away since the pandemic. At the same time, parishioners are increasingly seeing themselves as missionary disciples, living Christ’s call in daily life.

We also live the principle of Love in Action through united Respect Life ministries, expanded St. Vincent de Paul collaboration, and outreach efforts that respond directly to the needs in our neighborhoods, food, housing, accompaniment, and advocacy. These ministries embody our commitment to serve Christ for the poor and vulnerable.



Eucharist



Church



Leadership



Stewardship



Evangelization



Love In Action

CHALLENGES

Our Family of Parishes is navigating ongoing financial and operational pressures, with limited revenue growth, fluctuating support, and staffing needs. Key roles and reporting structures are being clarified, but sustaining operations across the parishes remains a concern.

Several facilities require attention due to deferred maintenance, underutilization, and management challenges across multiple properties. The school's financial model adds additional pressure, and upcoming changes in support could impact its sustainability. Overall, these factors underscore the need for careful planning to maintain stability and capacity across the parish network.

MOVING FORWARD

As we move forward, our Implementation Team, Family Leadership Team, and combined Parish and Finance Councils will work together to strengthen parish life.

The following goals outline key initiatives for the Implementation Team:

Encounter Team

Develop a plan for members of our St. Gaspar Family of Parishes to discover and embrace a lifelong, loving relationship with Jesus.

Unity Team

Foster a cohesive St. Gaspar Family of Parishes that welcomes all ages and stages of faith by extending grace and acceptance to all.

Faith Formation and Education Team

Provide pathways for all ages—from youth to adults—to inform and educate about the Catholic faith so that we can live our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Communication Team

Implement various communication channels to keep people engaged with the St. Gaspar Family of Parishes' purpose, vision, and priorities, and to inform them of all available opportunities.

LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED



We invite you to become involved by joining our Implementation Team, praying, or providing feedback. You'll find more information and updates on our new six-parish family website at stgasparfamily.org/our-mission-and-vision.



stgasparfamily.org