

HOLY FAMILY Catholic Community

*Disciples in Christ living witness
to the Good News.*

STRATEGIC PLAN

2023 - 2028



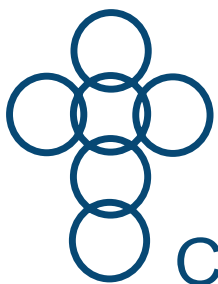
STRATEGIC PLAN

2023 - 2028



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A Message from Fr. Ryan Pruess.....3
- Our Mission and Vision...4
- Our Holy Family Catholic Community Sites.....5
- Origins and Foundation.....6
- Our Patron Saints: The Holy Family.....7
- Guiding Principles.....8
- Areas of Ministry.....9
- The Strategic Plan:
 - Evangelization.....12
 - Study.....13
 - Prayer.....16
 - Generosity.....17

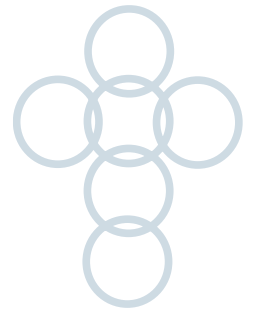


HOLY FAMILY
Catholic Community

*Disciples in Christ living witness
to the Good News.*

A Message From...

Fr. Ryan Pruess



Dear Holy Family Catholic Community Parishioners,

As members of the Catholic Church, we frequently look to the Bible and its stories of the past to provide guidance for how to live our lives in the present. We look to Adam and Eve for the repercussions of sin, Moses for how we can follow God's Commandments, and Jesus's Word for how to treat our neighbor and find redemption in the Lord.

It is only in looking towards the future, however, that we decide how to best use our knowledge to carry out of the word of God in our lives, in our community, and in our world.

We do this daily at Holy Family Catholic Community as we assess everything from how we can help those in the Fond du Lac area to what message we want to impart during our homilies. Nowhere is this clearer than the document you are reading right now: our Holy Family Catholic Community Strategic Plan for 2023-2028.

For nearly a year, a committee consisting of members of our Pastoral Council, staff, and clergy gathered to craft this plan. As you can imagine, distilling the aims of a congregation the size of ours — 5,700 families and counting — into one set of goals is not easy to do, and to all those who worked on this plan, I offer my deepest gratitude. This was no small undertaking and we are blessed that you took it on with such vigor and purpose.

Guided by our mission statement, our parish community, and the inspiration of the Holy Family, we laid out four areas of parish life we believe are most important to address: **Evangelization** — how we inspire others to join the Catholic Church and to remain devoted to it; **Study** — how we build our faith knowledge throughout our lives; **Prayer** — how we worship and thank the Lord; and **Generosity** — how we give of ourselves to help others.

Through feedback from our Christian Formation, Human Concerns, Stewardship, and Worship Commissions, we set goals within each area and developed the means by which we plan to accomplish them. These strategies, both large and small, will lead us forward as we seek to achieve not just the aspirations in this plan, but our mission as a parish.

Much like the formulation of this plan, the task to which we now devote ourselves cannot be accomplished by one person, or even one group within the parish. It will take the work of our community. With a parish filled with such loving and grace-filled people as ours is, I have no doubt that we will succeed.

As we continue to evolve as a parish, may we always keep in mind the Bible verse, Proverbs 16:9, and let it be our guide, "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

In Christ,

Fr. Ryan J. Pruess
Pastor – Holy Family Catholic Community

Our Mission + Vision

Who We Are

Holy Family Catholic Community is a vibrant, multi-cultural parish of 5,700 families in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Vision

Disciples in Christ living witness to the Good News.

Mission

We are a Catholic community empowered through the Holy Spirit to love God and to follow Jesus Christ through faith, worship, and witness.

Values Guiding our Parish

To live out our mission to be a Catholic Community that loves and follows Christ, we use the following values as our guideposts:

- **COMMUNITY:** We seek to welcome all to our parish, and ensure that everyone feels the love of God and the support of community as they continue along their faith journey.
- **FAITH FORMATION:** As faith formation does not end once someone has been Confirmed, we believe in the importance of offering opportunities for all stages of life, from childhood through adulthood, so we can continue to grow spiritually our entire lives.
- **PRAYER:** The source and the summit of our faith is the Eucharist, and from this springs one of the key ways that we build our relationship with God: prayer. We promote prayer in the many forms it takes, both individually and in community, as well as through the Sacraments, Adoration, and Mass.
- **SACRIFICIAL GIVING:** It is through giving that we share our blessings from God to benefit others. At Holy Family Catholic Community, your donations power our ministries, from caring for the sick and poor to keeping our church sites open for worship.
- **SERVICE:** Through the use of our talents and gifts, we serve the parish and our larger human community with Catholic social teaching at the heart of what we do.



In God's House



Holy Family Church & Parish Office
271 Fourth Street Way • Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Corner of Co. Rd. K and Fourth St.



Our Risen Savior Church
N6499 Co. Rd. Y • Eldorado, WI 54932
Corner of Co. Rd. Y and Forest Ave.



Sacred Heart Church
200 S. Peters Ave. • Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Corner of S. Peters and Western Aves.



St. Peter Church
N8079 Church Rd. • Malone, WI 53049
Corner of Co. Rd. WH and Church Road



Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
705 Michigan Ave. • North Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Corner of Michigan Ave. and Garfield St.



St. Mary Church
59 E. Merrill Ave. • Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Corner of Merrill Ave. and Marquette St.

Origins + Foundation

The origins of Holy Family Catholic Community can be traced back to 1994. Then, parish councils from throughout the area — those of Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, St. Louis, St. Mary, St. Patrick, and St. Peter — met to discuss what the future looked like for them. The parishes ranged in age from a few decades old, like Sacred Heart, to nearly as old as the city of Fond du Lac, like St. Louis and St. Joseph, but they all knew that being part of a 2,000-year institution meant adapting to change. The question was how to best do so.

Agreeing that collaborating would benefit them all just as it had with the Fond du Lac Area Catholic Education System, or FACES (now St. Mary's Springs Academy) the parishes continued to meet. The success found in FACES/SMSA propelled them to decide the way forward was again consolidation, this time of six parishes into one.

On June 30, 2000, the six parishes merged. Guided by the saints' message of love, acceptance, family, and faith, they named the unified parish Holy Family Catholic Community, and in 2007, through the generous support of our parishioners, we opened its namesake church on Fond du Lac's east side. Since then, the parish has continued to address the changing times. As the parish celebrated its 20th anniversary on July 1, 2020 it welcomed two more parishes: Our Risen Savior Church in Woodhull, and Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in North Fond du Lac.

In 2023, Holy Family Catholic Community consists of six church sites throughout the Fond du Lac area: Holy Family, Our Risen Savior, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sacred Heart, St. Mary, and St. Peter. Together, the six churches form a vibrant parish, active in events like our Corpus Christi Procession, Oktoberfest, and the Living Nativity; faith formation, with opportunities for all ages; and community outreach through various blood drives, food and supply drives, and our meal-to-go program, Blessed Bites.

Through the work of our dedicated parishioners, clergy team, and parish staff, Holy Family Catholic Community will continue to meet our changing world with innovative thought, an open heart, and a faith in our Lord for decades to come.



Left: Fr. Joseph Racette, OMI, is pictured with one of St. Louis' many First Communion classes between his tenure of 1917 to 1932. • Right: Fr. Ryan Pruess celebrates with a group of Holy Family Catholic Community's 2022 First Communicants.

Our Patron Saints: the Holy Family

In our parish, we are blessed to have as our patrons: Jesus, St. Mary, and St. Joseph — the Holy Family.

As individuals and as a unit, the Holy Family demonstrated fidelity to each other and faithfulness to God throughout their lives.

When told by the Archangel Gabriel that she would bear the Messiah, Mary did not question or turn away Gabriel, but instead embraced his message from God, saying, “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done unto me according to your word.” Although initially planning to divorce Mary quietly upon learning of her pregnancy, Joseph, like his wife, too, listened to an angel of God, and took Mary to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus. Despite knowing the pain and suffering that awaited him, Jesus followed God’s plan to Calvary in order to bring salvation to us all. Time and again, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus allowed themselves to be guided by the voice of the Lord to wherever it took them, and no matter the hardship it meant for themselves.

In addition to their unwavering faith, the family is a model of love and acceptance. Despite the holy, but strange circumstance Mary and Joseph found themselves in at the beginning of their marriage, they remained a family, strengthened by their own love and the love of God. Into this strong bond, they welcomed Jesus, doing all they could to protect the Savior of the world.

Their example guides us on our faith journeys, showing us what it looks like to be devoted, loving members of a family. It is an example we seek to emulate at our parish, in both our own families and in our Catholic family. As Pope John Paul II said in the Angelus, December 28, 2003: “At the school of Nazareth every family learns to be a workshop of love, unity, and openness to life.”



“

“Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith.”

– Pope Francis

Our Steering Committee's

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As our Steering Committee began to construct our Strategic Plan, they looked to cornerstone ideas on which to build it, ones that could serve as the foundation for a Catholic life, as well as help our parish grow and thrive. Finding inspiration in Matthew Kelly's book *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*, the committee formed their plan around the characteristics they believe would make for an engaged parish: Evangelization, Study, Prayer, and Generosity.



EVANGELIZATION:

Having seen how a vibrant spiritual life has transformed them and every aspect of their lives, highly engaged Catholics want others to experience the joy that flows from having a dynamic relationship with God.



STUDY:

Becoming students of Jesus and his Church, proactively making an effort to allow his teachings to form them.



PRAYER:

Seeing God not as a distant force, but rather a personal friend and adviser.



GENEROSITY:

The heart of Christianity and evidence that the teachings of Christ have taken root in the lives of dynamic Catholics.

Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends ... Converse with Him confidently and frankly; for God is not wont to speak to a soul that does not speak to Him."

– Saint Alphonsus Liguori

Steering Committee GOAL

It is the goal of the steering committee that, inspired by these four characteristics, we have created a road map to becoming a more dynamic, vibrant parish, carrying forward our mission to spread God's Good News, and act as disciples of Christ.

Steering Committee MEMBERS

Sabina Carter
Erin Cobb
Chuck Hornung
Mike Immel
Patty King

Fr. Ryan Pruess
Fr. Edward Sanchez
Mike Vander Sanden
Jean Schram
Jim Stewart

AREAS OF MINISTRY

Holy Family is a large, diverse community with many spiritual, human, social, and intellectual needs. Various areas of ministry have been formed and continue to address the needs and concerns of all members of Holy Family Catholic Community, as well as those of the Fond du Lac area and beyond.

Christian Formation



Members of our community become involved in our parish through participation in **Elementary, Middle, and High School Formation, Young Adult Formation, Women's and Men's Ministry, Bible Study, and Parish Retreats**. Guest speakers, group activities, and community involvement help individuals explore their faith.



First Communion



Confirmation



Holy Orders



Reconciliation

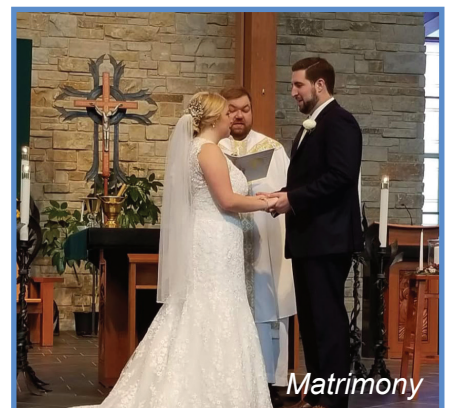
Holy Orders photo credit:
St. Francis de Sales Seminary



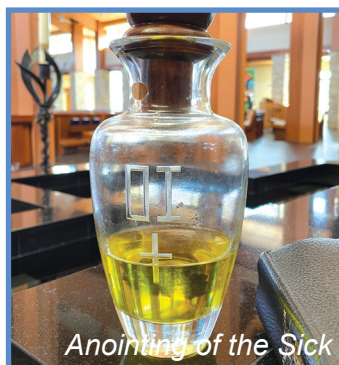
Students learn and grow in their faith through **Vacation Bible School, Summer Program, and Catechism**.



Elementary & Middle School Formation Coordinator leads children at **Summer Program**.



Matrimony



Anointing of the Sick



Baptism

Human Concerns



Volunteers pack 300 lunches each Tuesday in the summer for the free **Brown Bag Lunch Program**, which distributes lunches to children and families in need.



The Holy Family Outreach Center at St. Mary Church serves those in need in the community, including refugees.



Middle and high school teens participate in **Love Begins Here**, performing local service projects.



Volunteers gather to sew quilts and pillowcases for donation to local shelters and nursing homes.



Donations from a recent hygiene drive benefited local agencies like The Salvation Army and Solutions Center.



Volunteers distribute food and other household items for **Blessed Bites** to-go meals at St. Mary Church. The program distributes meals each week to those in need.

Hispanic Community



Traditional Aztec dancers (the priestesses) take part in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.



Hispanic culture is celebrated with traditional decor, music, and language during special Masses and Sacraments.

Worship



Worshiping God takes many forms, such as our choirs, singing beautifully for Mass; walking through downtown Fond du Lac to process with the Blessed Sacrament; and celebrating the birth of Jesus with live animals, incredible music, and a Nativity scene.



Stewardship



As part of God's family, we all have the ability to be good stewards. In addition to giving of time, talent, and treasure, being a good steward means celebrating God's creation, joining in community with one another, and caring for our environment.



THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Evangelization

STRATEGY

To inspire and equip groups of disciples to begin living as missionaries.

Explanation: Being a disciple means attending Mass, engaging in personal prayer, and striving to follow God's law. Being a missionary means building friendships with non-disciples, sharing small testimonies and personal stories of faith, and inviting other Catholics to go deeper in their relationship with God.

Christian Formation:

- Provide access to Sacraments for families in the parish.
- Form disciples to go out on mission and share the Good News of Jesus.
- Invite all parishioners to participate in the mission of the Church.

Human Concerns:

- Inform our parish of how our members are acting as missionaries in our larger community.
- Provide opportunities for access to the Eucharist.
- Provide learning opportunities for jail and prison inmates to grow in their Catholic faith.
- Form new missionaries to support social justice initiatives.

Stewardship:

- Encourage current members to engage with new members of our parish community.
- Share opportunities with new members to become involved with the parish.
- Encourage financial giving to support the mission of our parish.
- Offer financial planning opportunities, such as our Endowment Fund and end-of-life giving.

Worship:

- Offer regular opportunities for training choir members, Sacristians, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar Servers, and Lectors.
- Host annual choir recruitment days.
- Promote Eucharistic Adoration opportunities throughout the parish.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20.



STRATEGY

Maintain existing events and create new opportunities for evangelization.

Explanation: Organize parish events that have a fun and welcoming atmosphere and draw people from beyond our parish community.

Christian Formation:

- Invite fellow parishioners and friends of other faiths to events.
- Encourage small group leaders to build community which can be brought and shared with the larger parish.
- Boldly proclaim Sacramental life of the Church in word and action.

Human Concerns:

- Establish connections between multiple generations in community through current programming, like Neighbors in Faith, the Card Ministry, and Blessed Bites.
- Faithfully execute the social justice mission of the Church.

Stewardship:

- Organize activities and work with other commissions to promote fellowship opportunities.
- Create social opportunities at sites after Mass.
- Organize opportunities to recognize and thank major financial contributors to the parish.
- Host annual Volunteer Appreciation Day and develop new ways to recognize work of volunteers.
- Establish a continuous line of care when a parishioner registers.

Worship:

- Offer special recognition of specific community service groups.
- Help to foster sacred prayer space through music.
- Integrate new, tasteful decorations to help ensure a sacred worship environment.
- Continue to develop programs and events that are innovative and engage people of other faiths.
- Ensure Mass times and locations are easy to find in print and online.



Study

STRATEGY

Create opportunities for youth to encounter Christ.

Explanation: Develop events and programming to engage youth and help them build their faith and relationship with Christ.

Christian Formation:

- Encourage community building in youth through Christ-centered social opportunities.
- Provide young people the opportunity to pray together.
- Offer opportunities for youth to experience Christ in small groups.
- Continue evaluation and updating of current programs to determine effectiveness.
- Continue to follow Archdiocesan curriculum guidelines to develop programming curriculum.

“In the words of St. Augustine, ‘I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe.’” - The Catholic Church, “Catechism of the Catholic Church”

STUDY CONTINUED:

- Continue to work with St. Mary's Springs Academy to foster community and build upon the common mission of sharing the faith with future generations.
- Continue to work with public school students to foster community and share the faith with future generations.
- Encourage participation in Human Concerns Youth Service Group.

Human Concerns:

- Add youth representation on Human Concerns Commission.
- Offer poverty simulation for High School Formation students.
- Provide youth information on different social service opportunities to engage in within the parish.

Stewardship:

- Encourage youth and their families to be involved with parish-wide fellowship events.
- Provide families with meaningful Christ-centered fellowship events.
- Educate youth about stewardship through introducing Children's Offertory Envelope Program.
- Share information about stewardship and how it improves self-worth with children in collaboration with Christian Formation ministry and catechists.

Worship:

- Encourage children to become involved with Mass through Children's Choir and Altar Serving.
- Promote vocational awareness.
- Promote an appreciation for sacred art and music.

STRATEGY

To create opportunities for adults to encounter Christ.

Explanation: Develop events and programming to engage adults and help them build their faith and relationship with Christ.

Christian Formation:

- Offer a variety of vibrant formation opportunities.
- Establish an adult faith formation committee to evaluate new curriculum and programming.
- Encourage feedback on current faith formation opportunities.
- Survey participants regarding improvement of programming and interest in future events.
- Strengthen parish's understanding of Sacred Scripture.
- Establish small groups to discuss Sunday Readings.

Human Concerns

- Organize events, speakers, and Bible studies to raise awareness on relevant social justice issues.

Stewardship

- Work to improve parish buildings to ensure they are conducive to learning.
- Help to identify individuals with talents that can be used in adult faith formation.

Worship

- Provide additional opportunities for Catholics to learn about Mass and the Catholic Church.
- Offer learning opportunities to engage in rich history of the Catholic Church.
- Assist in organization and promotion of patronal feast days.



STRATEGY

Provide opportunities to engage in faith formation with their family.

Explanation: Continue existing programming and events, as well as develop new events for families to learn more about their faith in a family-friendly environment.

Christian Formation:

- Survey parents to help understand the needs and concerns of parents in the parish.
- Offer opportunities that encourage and assist parents in raising children in the practice of the Catholic faith.
- Promote multi-generational learning opportunities at the parish and inside the home.

Human Concerns:

- Create opportunities for families to learn more about basic human rights, justice, and dignity.

Stewardship:

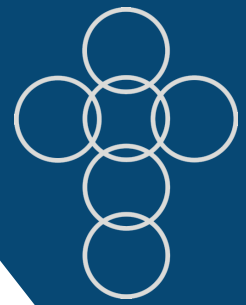
- Guide adults to act as role models of active stewardship in the parish.
- Promote volunteer opportunities for parents across parish programs and events.
- Help to cultivate teaching within families that encourages giving back in thanks for what God has provided.

Worship:

- Encourage families to offer time and service in the Liturgy.



Prayer



STRATEGY

Create a reverent, prayerful, and welcoming atmosphere at all churches.

Explanation: Ensure that people of all ages can feel they are welcome and able to worship when they attend Masses and other programming at our churches.

Christian Formation:

- Offer faith formation to help provide guidance on various Church customs and etiquette.
- Offer variety of prayer.
- Offer resources to reach families and younger members.

Human Concerns:

- Continue to support those who are homebound, in nursing homes, and in Prison Ministry who are unable to attend weekly Mass.

Stewardship:

- Support a diverse prayer culture by creating prayerful worship spaces at our churches.
- Formalize process of connecting existing parishioners with new parishioners.

Worship:

- Select hymns at Mass that foster reverence.
- Start each choir rehearsal with prayer.
- Create more opportunities for English-speaking and Spanish-speaking choirs to collaborate.
- Provide additional resources for Hispanic community.



STRATEGY

Assist parishioners in fostering a stronger life of prayer.

Explanation: Provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to deepen their relationship with God through prayer.

Christian Formation:

- Begin and end all parish ministry groups with prayer.
- Provide opportunities and encouragement for involvement in sacramental prayer formation, such as the Litanies, Novenas, the Rosary, and Adoration.
- Provide resources for different types of personal prayer opportunities.
- Widen variety of small group ministries and studies to engage with more parishioners.
- Encourage participation in Archdiocesan-led events.
- Provide retreat opportunities.
- Design and offer regular opportunities for retreats at various times.

Human Concerns:

- Begin and end ministry groups with prayer.
- Offer Human Concerns Commission members regular opportunities for prayer together.
- Engage in specific service opportunities on feast days.
- Offer retreat opportunities based on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

“Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.”
- St. John Chrysostom



PRAYER CONTINUED

Stewardship:

- Begin and end ministry groups with prayer.
- Invite members of Stewardship Commission to attend National Stewardship Conference.
- Participate in Stewardship Sunday.
- Pray at Mass for an increase in parishioners offering time, talent, and treasure, especially on Stewardship Sunday.
- Provide financial resources for retreats and staff development day.
- Support a diverse prayer culture by creating prayerful worship spaces at our churches.

Worship

- Provide musical and liturgical support at parish retreat.
- Provide retreat for liturgical ministers.
- Continue to offer larger ecumenical musical events.
- Plan occasional national and international choir trips to showcase Holy Family choirs.
- Utilize technology to showcase choirs online.
- Continue to offer Living Nativity every two years and the Christmas Concert on the opposite year.
- Look to expand opportunities for traditional Catholic prayer as well as offer other types of prayer opportunities.

Generosity

"In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
- Acts 20:35

STRATEGY

To create new ways for people to realize their God-given talents and in turn increase the number of volunteers at Holy Family.

Explanation: Develop new ways for our parishioners to utilize their interest and talents in the parish.

Christian Formation:

- Personally invite parishioners following prayer to serve in ways that may fulfill a deeper calling informed by their spiritual gifts.
- Incorporate opportunities to serve as Readers, Greeters, and Ushers at Masses through Christian Formation programming.
- Invite new and existing parishioners to serve in various Christian Formation ministries.

Human Concerns:

- Increase the number of individuals that assist with and participate in drives and meal programs.
- In collaboration with Christian Formation, work to accomplish efforts to reach out into the community.

Stewardship:

- Promote active involvement with various parish ministries.
- Continually foster and maintain a list of volunteers.
- Engage new parishioners to get involved through the welcoming committee.
- Provide volunteers with opportunities to be involved in the parish.

GENEROSITY CONTINUED

Worship:

- Encourage parishioners to donate their time and talent as Liturgical Ministers and choir members.
- Create regular trainings for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, and Sacristans.

STRATEGY

Increase transparency where parish funds are spent and highlight the ways it's accomplishing the mission and vision of the Holy Family.

Explanation: Ensure parishioners have access to parish financial information and how it is utilized to serve our parishioner and community.

Christian Formation:

- Highlight projects and renovations accomplished with parishioner support.

Human Concerns:

- Update parishioners on the outcomes of parish outreach programs and how they are benefiting the community.

Stewardship:

- Continue to make parishioners aware of larger projects completed within the parish related to buildings and grounds.

Worship:

- Continue to make parishioners aware of larger projects related to worship, music, and sacred items.



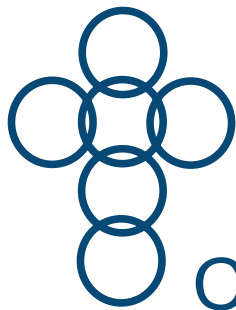
Guided in Prayer

As we bring our Strategic Plan to life, we entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit.



God of all that lives, from your abundant riches flow the blessings that make our world fruitful; and by You comes the inspiration that guides us into a future that is still unfolding. Today we ask your blessing on the plans that have been developed for our ministries. Bless those whose work and effort have produced them, whose imagination and foresight have shaped them. Be with us as we seek to assess these plans and see them turned into action. Renew in all of us a sense of sharing in your great work of creation, discerning the future in ways that will make our call to mission flourish. May the partnerships we form be empowering for all. By recognizing the gifts that each one brings, may we be sure that no one comes empty-handed. For you have blessed us all, in mercy's name. Amen.





HOLY FAMILY Catholic Community

271 Fourth Street Way • Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-921-0580 • info@hffd.org • hffd.org

