

**St. Denis Parish Catechetical Plan  
Mission Statement, Vision & Goals  
April 2018**

**Catechetical Mission Statement:**

*The catechetical mission of St. Denis Parish is to provide a program of ongoing Catholic faith formation that nourishes a vibrant Christian life of worship, witness and community in Jesus Christ for all of its parishioners.*

**Vision of the Faith Formation Committee:**

*The St. Denis Faith Formation Committee was formed in 2016 by Parish Council to review all our faith formation programs and assess what we are doing well, what needs to be changed, and how we can respond to emerging needs in our parish community. The outcome was a parish-wide faith formation vision and catechetical plan, implemented during the 2017-18 school year by the Director of Faith Formation(DFF), Fr. Brian and the Faith Formation Committee(FFC). This is our response to the National Directory for Catechesis' mandate to create a catechetical plan. This living document guides our parish faith formation programs and will be continually revised to respond to changing needs and opportunities.*

**Core Beliefs:**

- The objective of all catechesis is communion with Christ and forming disciples.
- Faith formation is a lifelong process.
- Every parishioner / disciple shares in the catechetical mission of evangelization.
- We are all called to work to build a parish community of faith and service.
- Adult faith formation, " by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer, and study, must be the primary focus of catechesis." Catechesis of all others flows from adult catechesis.
- The OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) provides us with a model for success.
- Sacrament preparation will happen within the context of the faith formation of adults (parents) and will involve the whole parish community.
- Catechists must be formed and provided with ongoing opportunities for spiritual growth & renewal.
- As a diverse, busy parish community we will attempt to accommodate the catechetical needs of parishioners, when practical.
- Prayer is essential to success.

**St. Denis Catechetical Plan**

## Goals:

### 1. The Faith Formation program at St. Denis will have adult faith formation as its primary focus.

Objective 1A. Hire necessary staff to successfully run all formal catechetical programs at St. Denis.

Strategies

- a. Write and approve job description for support staff with a ministry background.
- b. Hire a part-time support staff for the DFF.
- c. Assess budgetary requirements for staffing needs and set salary.
- d. Recruit volunteers to provide administrative support.

Objective 1B. The DFF, under the supervision of the Pastor & in consultation with the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation, will develop, enhance & coordinate Adult Faith Formation (AFF) programs in the Parish.

Strategies

- a. Continue assessing current AFF programs in the parish using survey work done by the Faith Formation Committee and other appropriate means.
- b. Continue researching AFF programming that work in other parishes.
- c. Meet with current parish program leaders to coordinate & focus AFF.
- d. Insure that the RCIA model is used and understood by group and participants\*.
- e. Provide ongoing support, education & resources for AFF catechists.
- f. Create a comprehensive parish-wide FF calendar for next year during summer 2018.
- e. Provide more and varied opportunities for AFF (retreats, lectures, small faith groups, etc.)

leaders

\*Why the OCIA model: (from the *National Directory for Catechesis*) OCIA has emphasized the need for a catechesis based more directly on the baptismal catechumenate. In this context, catechesis aims to achieve a more integral formation of the person rather than merely to communicate information. ***The restored catechumenate seeks to foster a committed conversation through a systematic catechesis based on a more thorough integration of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, through liturgical catechesis, proper pastoring, and insertion into the parish community.*** These four aspects lead people to a life of faith in Christ, hope in his promises, and charity toward those in need, the life of faith, hope, and charity is nourished through communion with Jesus in the Liturgy, above all in the Eucharist.” ***Catechesis is a life-long process.***

### 2. Faith Formation of children and young adults will flow from that of adults.

Objective 2A. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will continue to be used to form our youngest parishioners and their parents.

- Strategies
- a. Provide continuing education and support for this program.
  - b. Annual assessments of the program will be conducted by the DFF.
  - c. Expansion of the program to include K-3 should be examined & implemented as soon as possible.
  - d. Program expansion will be facilitated by training more catechists and finding a location for a Level II Atrium.

Objective 2B. The Pastor, DFF, & staff, with input from catechists, will seek out opportunities to make catechesis more family focused & programming more family friendly. Prayer will always be an essential part of every program.

- Strategies
- a. Create family and inter-generational prayer / service activities.
  - b. Continue to co-sponsor with Sacred Heart a VBS.
  - c. Create a summer session for all High School Students lead by the Dominican student brothers with follow-up meetings or activities throughout the school year.
  - d. Support parents and families by building relationships, providing resources, and offering programs that assist them in building and strengthening their domestic Church.
  - e. Develop or find retreat & mission experiences for High School & Middle School Students.

Objective 2C. The Pastor, DFF & appropriate staff and catechists will continue to participate in the Diocese's "Restore. Renew. Proclaim the Hope that is Christ" initiative.

- Strategies
- a) Continue to inform and educate the parish community about the restored order.
  - b) Execute the plan for the implementation of the restored order for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation.

**3. All catechists will be well formed in the Faith.**

Objective 3A. Catechists will be provided with opportunities to grow in knowledge of the Faith.

Strategies

- a. Encourage all catechists to attend the Diocesan Catechetical formation programs.
- b. Make online programs available to all catechists.
- c. Regularly communicate information about summer programs, presentations, and other opportunities for enrichment to catechists.
- d. Convene quarterly formational and informational catechist meetings. (DFF)

Objective 3B. Catechists will be provided with the opportunity for spiritual growth & reflection.

Strategies

- a. Participate in an annual catechist's retreat organized by the pastor & DFF.
- b. Create opportunities for regular group prayer & reflection.

**4. This catechetical plan will be reviewed and updated annually.**

Objective 4A. The pastor, DFF and FFC will review and update this plan at the end of each school year.