

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

Smyrna, Georgia

Pastoral Plan 2017

We, the members of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, as children of God are called to live according to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Together we seek to promote the spiritual growth of our parish by striving to meet the spiritual needs of all parishioners and beyond through the word of God. We are blessed with diversity and multicultural experiences on which we seek to build a better Christian family where love abounds. Each of us is called to do his/her part by knowing our faith, living our faith, spreading our faith and nurturing growth in our parish.

I. Knowing our Faith

- A. We will work together to move to a family formation model that recognizes the diversity of family units today and that emphasizes the head of the family's role in faith formation.
- B. We will work together to prioritize adult catechesis.
- C. We will work together to offer more opportunities to participate in parish life as a family such as service days, spiritual activities and social events.

II. Living Our Faith

- A. We will work together to promote understanding the "why" behind the Church's teachings.
- B. We will work together to prioritize charity and service as the epitome of living out the faith.
- C. We will work together to encourage a deeper personal prayer life.
- D. We will work together to build a stronger sense of unity with the parish and increase the personal connection to the parish.

III. Spreading/Keeping Our Faith

- A. We will work together to promote and provide infrastructure for small faith communities to keep people connected to the Church.
- B. We will work together to use new technology and social media to keep the Church up to date and present in the lives of Catholics.
- C. We will work together to foster whole family programs to keep parishioners centered on the parish.
- D. Develop more formal outreach programs for groups who feel disenfranchised from the Catholic Church.

IV. Evolution of Our Parishes

- A. We will work together to let qualified laity/deacons do more administration so priests can focus on sacraments/catechesis.
- B. We will work together to empower deaneries to collaborate and share ministries, staff and clergy resources.
- C. We will work together to create a welcoming and nurturing environment for all cultures with the parish.

This document will be reviewed annually for progress and change.