

Greetings My Fellow Parishioners,

It is my hope and prayers that this letter finds you well under these most unusual circumstances. In spite of Covid-19 we are not only surviving but thriving. With this letter it is time for the parish of Good Shepherd to move forward.

For the last year, the Pastoral Council has been in the process developing a plan for the future of Good Shepherd parish. This is based on Bishop Bambera's Pastoral letter: ***Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered***. With a focus on **WORD, WORSHIP, SERVICE** and **COMMUNITY**. You have seen the bulletin announcements and noticed the large banners in the church.

In preparation for this plan we have developed a new Mission Statement:

Who we are: *We, at Good Shepherd parish, a welcoming and inclusive community, strive to feed the sheep as Jesus did by: Celebrating the Sacraments, Living the Word and sharing our gifts in a generous spirit with love for all.*

How We Do It: *Faithful disciples following the Shepherd.*

In an effort to fulfill our Mission statement and develop this plan for the future, we need to hear what **YOU** have to say about our wonderful parish. The Pastoral Council has worked very hard over the past few months developing this survey in order to get feedback from you. Without your input, we cannot move forward. This survey has been tailored for Good Shepherd. It outlines what we are currently doing and what we hope to do in the future.

We are asking that you take the time to look through this document and answer the questions appropriately. The survey is anonymous (unless you decide to give us some contact information in response to some of the questions). Here are some helpful hints:

We are in a pandemic: We ask that you answer your questions as if we were under normal circumstances (when answering about mass attendance, answer as if you were coming to church on a regular basis).

Choices:

1. You can fill out the survey on line by clicking on the link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDI1N43nPOiU2-r11dKdLLWMfuvKtDM1LCJJZuwkrl8bA8fQ/viewform>

2. You can fill out the survey by hand and either mail it back or drop it off at the office.

Help: If you need help filling out the survey, contact the office and a member of the Pastoral Council will be glad to assist.

Comments: There is ample opportunity for you to express your thoughts in prose and we encourage you to do so.

Time Frame: this survey must be completed and returned to the office **NO LATER THAN October 14.**

I especially want to thank the Pastoral Council and Mrs. Ann Marie Cawley from the Diocese who have assisted us in developing this survey. This is a great opportunity for you to have important input in the future of this wonderful parish and I encourage you to take the appropriate time to do fill out the survey and return it immediately.

Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Respectfully,

Fr. Mike