

SAMPLE MISSION STATEMENTS FOR CATHOLIC PARISHES

EXAMPLES OF MISSION STATEMENTS

While there is no single formula for a good mission statement, it can be helpful to look at what other parishes have done. You might wish to compile a list of statements from other parishes similar to your own. This can give you ideas of how to articulate what is distinctive about your parish. Notice how some parishes combine mission, vision, and values. The statements below were selected merely to illustrate a variety of approaches. You may wish to start your own file of mission statements that you believe are effective.

Basilica Shrine of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

(www.nationalshrine.com/site/c.osJRKVPBjH/b.4719297/k.BF65/Home.htm)

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic church dedicated to the patroness of our nation, is a place of worship, pilgrimage, evangelization and reconciliation. It offers visitors the occasion for a deepening conversion, a step forward in the journey to God, with Mary as the model for that journey. This monumental church, raised by Catholics of the United States because of their devotion to Mary the Mother of God, gives visibility to their faith and Catholic heritage. Mary's Shrine invites people from across the country and beyond into the saving moment of faith, hope and charity, so that they may be reconciled and transformed into living symbols of Christ's presence in the world. It is here that the faithful gather to worship God, give honor to Mary, and are sent to spread God's word wherever they go.

St. Cecilia Church (www.stceciliachurch.org/)

We, the people of St. Cecilia Parish, brothers and sisters in Christ, accept as our mission:

*to know our faith
to live by truth and love
to serve the needs of others
to teach by example
and thereby strengthen and
inspire the Parish family.*

St. Louis Catholic Church of Batesville, Indiana (www.stlouis-batesville.org)

St. Louis Parish is a community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus as taught by the Roman Catholic Church through Word, Sacrament and Service.

The content found in this document is contained as a part of an educational resource packet from the Leadership Roundtable's Standards for Excellence program. Receive the full benefits of the Standards for Excellence by becoming a Partner in Excellence. Becoming a Partner in Excellence is free and it avails your parish of comprehended resources, best practices, model procedures and sample policies for all Church management, finances and human resources issues. To learn more about becoming a Partner in Excellence go to www.catholicstandardsforexcellence.org/SFX/partners/default.html

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St. Luke's Parish of Irving, Texas (<http://www.stlukeirving.org/>)

"We, the people of St. Luke's Parish, in the Diocese of Dallas, are called through Baptism to celebrate the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We are called and sent by Christ to live gratefully the life God has given us and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In the spirit of faith, service, and community, we strive to bring people closer together and closer to God. This we accomplish by:

- * Building our lives in the image of Christ through worship and prayer.*
- * Contributing to the growth of our parish by spreading the Gospel by word, witness, action and evangelization.*
- * Inviting everyone to serve, in this way meeting the needs of our parishioners and the broader community.*
- * Being faithful stewards of St. Luke, accountable to God for by responsibly sharing our time, talents and treasures.*
- * Lending support to the parish leadership and working together to fulfill the mission."*

St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church & School of Washington, DC

(www.saintaugustine-dc.org/home.html)

St. Augustine Church is the oldest Black Catholic church in the Nation's Capital. As the Mother Church of Black Catholics, St. Augustine Church continues in the tradition in which it was founded, as a strong Black Catholic institution which witnesses in faith to the Living God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. St. Augustine will continue to be a center which recognizes, proclaims and preserves our Black Roman Catholic Heritage. It will expand and improve all activities to advance the education of our children; to continue work in evangelization, liturgy, music, ecumenism and in efforts toward the achievement of a spiritual, economic and social development of all people. This is our call.