

Parish Pastoral Council – Five Year Plan Update

The Pastoral Council has prepared a draft of the **Five Year Plan (2026–2031)** for our linked parishes of **St. Ignatius Loyola** and **Holy Family**. This plan reflects our mission to serve the People of God, strengthen the linkage between our parishes, and honor the rich traditions of each community while continuing to grow together in faith.

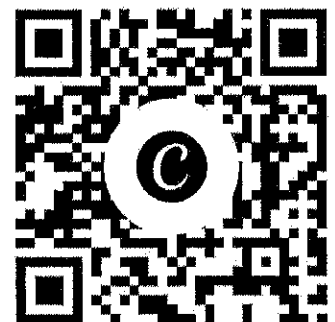
Guided by the Diocese of Scranton's **Vision 2030** and its four pillars—**WORD, WORSHIP, COMMUNITY, and SERVICE**—the plan outlines goals to support parish life, encourage cooperation, and invite parishioners to share their time, and talents.

We now warmly invite all parishioners to **review the draft** and offer **positive, helpful suggestions**. We ask that feedback focus on building up our parish communities and supporting our shared mission, remembering that this plan is meant to serve the larger needs of both parishes.

We present this draft of the Pastoral Plan, calling each of us to be bridge builders. All commissions, committees, and councils work together with our clergy to accomplish these goals, and we are grateful for the many contributions already made. Anyone wishing to become more involved is encouraged to contact a council member.

Please join us in praying for the continued success of our linked parishes as we work together to build vibrant, sustainable communities rooted in faith, hope, and love.

The Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to take a copy of the **draft Five Year Plan** for our linked parishes and review it prayerfully. Please return your suggestions **by October 22, 2026**. Responses may be **mailed to either parish, placed in the collection basket, filled out via the QR code below, or dropped off at either parish office**. Your positive and helpful insights will guide our shared mission and support the future of both parish communities.



*Please feel free to scan the QR Code with your camera to access the Feedback Form

The Parishes of
St. Ignatius Loyola and Holy Family
Pastoral Plan
2027-2032



Mission Statements

We, the blended Catholic community of St. Ignatius, draw strength from Word and Sacrament, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. Modeling Christ's work, we embrace our commitment to God's call. We remain faithful to the shared acts of prayer, study, and service. Together we extend Christ's hospitality to others and light the path of peace for generations to come.

The mission of Holy Family Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton, situated in Luzerne, PA, is to proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ. We, the Catholic faithful of Holy Family Parish, in union with the universal Church, are called by our baptism to continue the mission given by Jesus Christ to the apostles. Empowered by the Word of God, formed and nourished by the Eucharist, and made bold by the Holy Spirit, we go forth and carry His message to the world, seeking to manifest God's transforming love through prayer, education, and service to others.

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BUILDING BRIDGES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Dear Parishioners,

The newly combined Pastoral Council of St. Ignatius and Holy Family is happy to present our revised and updated Parish Pastoral Plan for 2027-2032 that collaboratively unites us in serving as a visioning body to the pastor and the parishes. With the ideas and energy of many groups and committees, we will work to promote a vibrant and active community of believers.

In 2011 all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton were charged by Bishop Bambera to establish Parish Pastoral Councils that would involve the laity. We will continue to work under the four commissions—Word, Worship, Community, and Service---that were created from our first strategic plan, as they have served us successfully.

The logo on the front illustrates how a healthy parish operates. At the heart is the term *Servant Leadership* which means that we, by freely offering our time and talents in service to our church, become active disciples modeling Jesus' example. Embracing that term are four key areas: Word, Worship, Community, and Service--which show us the different ways to foster such leadership. Notice how the areas overlap; they are not independent but rather connect with one another. Therefore, in whatever ministry we participate, we are directly contributing to the whole church.

There are many varied ways to serve the parishes determined by the focus of each Commission. For example, if a parishioner is interested in being involved with the youth, he or she could assist in teaching a religious education class or assist with the youth group as part of the Word Commission. Someone else may be interested in participating in the faith experiences such as the music ministry or in the hospitality aspect of greeting at the liturgies listed under the Worship Commission. Each ministry promotes fellowship and contributes to the overall well-being of the parishes.

This is our Parish Pastoral Plan. It calls all of us to be bridge builders. All our Commissions, Committees, and Councils work with our clergy in accomplishing our goals. We sincerely appreciate the contributions that so many have made and invite anyone interested in getting involved to contact a member listed below.

Lastly, please pray for the continued success of our parishes as we work together to build vibrant and sustainable linked parishes, rooted in faith, hope, and love.

Your Parish Pastoral Council

Monsignor David Tressler, Pastor

Preston Balavage

Scott Lamoreux

Father Michael Boris, Asst. Pastor

Diane Connolly

Edward Naperski

Margarita Rose, Chair

Stephanie Fernandes

Donna Piekanski

Gina Weidow, Vice-Chair

Karen Hungarter

Abby Singh

Mary Stchur, Secretary

Gene Klimash

Word Commission

Promotes evangelization through faith formation for all generations

Goal 1: Develop Faith Formation Opportunities in Our Parishes for All Ages.

- A. Continue to support and enhance the current faith formation programs for all parishioners.
- B. Develop an ongoing educational program for current and potential catechists.
- C. Investigate strategies to involve young adults in the life of our parishes.

Goal 2: Build a Vibrant Family and Youth Ministry Program.

- A. Strengthen youth and family programs in our parishes and involve more youth and families in them. Especially engage post-Confirmation teens in parish and volunteer activities.
- B. Continue to support and enhance traditional activities for parish youth.
- C. Coordinate activities for our youth with other religious congregations.
- D. Foster and promote youth involvement in social outreach programs, such as volunteering at the food pantry.

Goal 3: Examine and Develop Strategies to Re-unite Inactive Catholics with the Parishes.

- A. Use opportunities to engage inactive Catholics during sacramental celebrations and other church rituals, e.g. through livestreaming Sunday and other liturgies.
- B. Identify methods to reach out to inactive Catholics in the parishes.

Examples of Actions to Achieve Goals

- Supporting all sacramental and religious education programs for our youth.
- Remaining committed to sustaining the Youth Ministry Advisory Board to guide our ministry for years to come.
- Continuing formation of Bible studies, faith-sharing groups, retreats, and presentations.

Worship Commission

Enriches parishioners' faith experiences through the liturgy, the environment, and devotionals

Goal 1: Enhance the Feeling of Welcome to All Who Enter Our Church.

- A. Charge liturgical ministries with enveloping the congregation in the spirit of the liturgies.
- B. Develop literature that creates a sense of welcome and participation.
- C. Create a sense of welcome and hospitality in all aspects of the parish community.

Goal 2: Create a Liturgy that Is a Community Experience: Well-Prepared and Inspiring, with Enthusiastic Participation.

- A. Support and enhance the music program in our church.
- B. Educate the community about the liturgy.
- C. Provide for ongoing focus groups and other mechanisms to gather feedback on enhancing the liturgy and participation.
- D. Enhance the formation and ongoing training of liturgical ministers.
- E. Identify strategies for involving youth in all aspects of the Mass.

Goal 3: Bridge the Message of the Liturgy to Our Everyday Lives

- A. Tie the Gospel message to our everyday lives.
- B. Evaluate and enhance the parish bulletin, website, and social media to increase communication.

Examples of Actions to Achieve Goals

- Ensuring there is music for Sundays and special feast days during the year.
- Preparing choirs and cantors for liturgical service.
- Preparing a prayerful and welcoming environment for all services.
- Promoting the recruitment of altar services, lectors, and ushers.
- Ensuring the continuation of the Altar Linens Ministry.

Community Commission

Promotes social activities and events which build community and foster fellowship and hospitality for all

Goal 1: Find Approaches to Generate Excitement and Communicate Our Activities to All Parishioners and to the Community.

- A. Invite more parishioners to participate in social networking offered by the parishes.
- B. Expand the parish newsletter to include both parishes.

Goal 2: Create a Warm and Fostering Environment for All Who Wish to be Part of Our Parish Family.

- A. Develop, evaluate, and expand hospitality ministries.
- B. Foster a sense of community from first contact with newly registered parishioners and with those receiving the sacraments of Baptism and Marriage.

Goal 3: Discover Ways to Engage All Parishioners to Become More Involved in Parish Life.

- A. Evaluate ministry fairs and follow up with participants to gauge interest in service.
- B. Maintain the parish ministry guide and share it with new members and those receiving the sacraments.
- C. Establish multi-generational faith-sharing events, retreats, and socials.
- D. Strengthen our Youth and Family educational outreach and activities.
- E. Become familiar with the role of other parish organizations and how they can better serve the parishes.

Goal 4: Meet the Needs of New Immigrants and Minority Groups in Our Local Areas

- A. Identify the immigrant and minority groups in our area.
- B. Determine the needs and respond to these groups accordingly.

Examples of Actions to Achieve Goals

- Offering new parishioner brunch twice a year, once at each parish.
- Encouraging participation in Holy Name Society, Altar & Rosary Society, and Mary's Ministry and their activities.

Service Commission

Supports ministries that address the needs of parishioners and the community and advocates for social justice

Goal 1: Support and Sustain Clear and Coordinated Communication of the Existing Needs and Opportunities for Service Within the Parishes and Across the Community.

- A. Maintain stewardship of current service ministries throughout the parishes while ensuring their future growth and continuity through sustainable volunteerism.
- B. Identify, evaluate, and publish service activities currently underway in the parishes.
- C. Create more opportunities for all parishioners, particularly the youth, to become engaged in meaningful service opportunities.
- D. Help the parishes become more proactive in partnering with other community organizations and religious groups to effect social change.

Goal 2: Develop Greater Awareness and Advocacy among Parishioners Regarding Pressing Social Needs Both Locally and Globally.

- A. Educate parishioners regarding social justice advocacy issues.
- B. Provide a range of educational forums on social justice.
- C. Coordinate with Finance Councils and Parish Pastoral Council to address emerging service needs in the parishes and community.
- D. Suggest and coordinate presentations on social concerns.

Examples of Actions to Achieve Goals

- Coordinating donations in support of Mother Teresa's Haven.
- Fostering partnerships with the Community Commission organizations.
- Supporting Christmas projects for families in need.
- Organizing the Parish Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Coordinating 'Socks and Personal Care Items for Veterans.'
- Providing volunteer support for the Food Pantry at Holy Family Parish.
- Providing supplemental volunteers for parish initiatives and events.
- Supporting Prison Ministry.