

Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church Strategic Planning–March 2013

There are eight areas we would like to focus on and develop further in the parish. These areas are defined as follows:

Leadership: There are two aspects to Parish Leadership: (a) Administration, planning, coordination and support of parish ministries and activities and (b) Christian and spiritual modeling. Our goal is to develop both the current people involved in leadership, as well as future leaders of the church through education and mentoring to provide a Christ centered leadership equipped with the practical skills necessary to serve the ministries of the parish.

Outreach: There are two aspects to Outreach: (a) Witness (martyria) and (b) Hospitality (philoxenia). Both of these aspects of outreach affect the existing members of the Church as well as the members of the nearby community.

Our goal is to embrace through this ministry those Orthodox Christians that are not currently active and bring them back into the parish family, as well as make the parish and the Orthodox Church more visible to the "Faith Seekers" in the surrounding community in order to bring more people into the Orthodox Faith.

Facilities Planning: As the parish grows in numbers, the need for facilities also grows. The purpose of this area is the research and recommendation of actions related to the acquisition of land and the construction of buildings that meet the needs of the parish community and are consonant with the Mission and Vision of the Orthodox Church.

Education: This is an ongoing effort of the parish to impart knowledge of the Orthodox Faith and practices to its current members as well as the "Inquirers" and "Faith Seekers" from the surrounding community.

Our goal is to evaluate the current educational efforts and seek ways and initiatives which will further engage adults as well as children in a deeper understanding and more faithful practice of the Orthodox Way of Life as taught by the Saints of the Church through the centuries.

Fellowship: We are social beings and need to have healthy interactions with those around us.

Our goal is the improvement of the social connections of the members of the parish through the planning and execution of social events in accordance with the spirit of the Orthodox Faith.

Philanthropy: Following the Lord's injunction to serve those in need and the least of our brethren we practice Philanthropy (Love for other human beings). It is through this love that people will know that we are disciples of Christ. This is a practical way to witness our Orthodox Faith.

Our goal is to provide opportunities of involvement of all parishioners in philanthropic work through Parish-sponsored initiatives both within the parish as well as the surrounding community.

Stewardship: This is the main venue within the parish of offering back to God from the blessings He has given us in Time, Talents and Treasures. Our goal is the education and engagement of all parishioners in this way of offering thanks to God for His blessings through involvement in parish activities and financial commitment for the support and advancement of the ministries of the parish.

Worship: The main purpose of the worship services of the Orthodox Church is to bring sanctification and salvation to those who consciously seek it. When the holy sacraments and especially when the Divine Liturgy are celebrated, Heaven bends to meet the Earth; the doors of Heaven open for us to receive the Life of God.

Our goal is to help the members of our parish to taste the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. This can be accomplished (by the Grace of God) by providing as many opportunities of worship as possible and engaging the members of the parish in a more meaningful liturgical experience. The cultivation among the parishioners of the observance of the Liturgical Calendar and the knowledge of Orthodox liturgical music and hymnology are necessary elements in attaining this goal.