

# BEACONS Report

ST. ISIDORE THE  
FARMER, FAMILY  
OF PARISHES

DECEMBER 2024



## Here’s what has happened in the last 2 years and what’s to come!

Beacons of Light is a process of pastoral planning to best arrange all the resources of the archdiocese to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples during this particular time and place.

The intention is to implement the Beacons of Light over the course of five years (2022 - 2027). By July 1, 2027, we will have a plan to operate as one parish focused on mission - drawing others to the light of Christ. We have made steady progress in the first two years of implementation, but there are still challenges ahead. God’s plans are for the best. During the Beacons of Light process, we discern together God’s will for our family of parishes.

There are five phases to the implementation of Beacons of Light: 1. Leadership, 2. Vision, 3. Culture, 4. Planning, and 5. Mission. The work of each phase will continue and overlap, but there are milestones to mark our progress; a roadmap, if you will. On the following pages, we will look at Our Family of parishes progress along the roadmap.

### 5 Phases of Beacons of Light

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LEADERSHIP

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VISION

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CULTURE

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PLANNING

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MISSION

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## Phase 1: Leadership

As mentioned in the beginning section, there are five phases for Beacons of Light. Our Parish Family is near the end of Phase 2 (Vision) and preparing for Phase 3 (Culture). Before discussing those two phases, let us revisit Phase 1 (Leadership). Where we have been and what was accomplished during this phase.

During the initial year and a half, Our Family of Parishes journeyed through Leadership. The Leadership phase focused on just that, building a family leadership team and unified family pastoral council. With this, it establishes the depth and breadth of staff and leadership which will engage in the Beacons of Light project. We focused on hiring directors to establish a cohesive family leadership team. Additionally, we formed a unified pastoral council consisting of three representatives from each parish within our family. This structure is essential, as the implementation of the Beacons of Light initiative is guided by the pastor in consultation with the pastoral council.

Over the past two years, we have made significant investments in our staff's development. They have identified their individual strengths through the StrengthsFinder assessment, recognized their charisms through the Called and Gifted Discernment Process of the Catherine of Siena Institute, and studied stages of discipleship as illustrated in the Process of Evangelization diagram. This comprehensive training enhances our understanding of stewardship



### Milestones Achieved

- Hired Pastoral Associate: Jun '22
- Unified Pastoral Council: Nov '22
- Parish Family Name: Jan '23
- Hired Director of Communications: May '23
- Began Family Leadership Team Meetings: Jun '23
- Hired Director of Evangelization: Jan. '24
- Presented Vision Statement to Pastoral Council: March '24



and introduces innovative ways to foster relationships with Jesus through His Church. Furthermore, the archdiocese provides training days focused on specific aspects of parish operations, including communications, evangelization, stewardship, and Love in Action, among others.

In the table above, we highlight seven main milestones achieved throughout Phase 1 and into Phase 2. Although we have transitioned beyond Phase 1, much attention continues to be directed towards the tasks associated with leadership.

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## Phase 2: Vision

In September 2023, Our Family of Parishes entered the Vision phase. In the Vision phase, we focused on creating a Vision for our Family which in itself is a call to action, is Spirit led, and God given, a clear aspirational goal, and is inspiring.

In that same month of September, the Family Leadership Team attended Visio Day, a workshop organized by the archdiocese to initiate the visioning process. In October, fifty parish leaders-including staff, pastoral council members, and various ministry leaders-were invited to begin the visioning process customized to the St. Isidore the Farmer, Family of Parishes. From this group, a committee of ten was established to draft a vision statement, convening in February, March, and May of 2024. The committee subsequently presented two options to the pastoral council, which unanimously adopted the longer version of our vision statement (featured in the box to the right). We will continue through late Fall/Winter focusing on concluding Phase 2 and making preparations for Phase 3 to begin in Spring of 2025.



### Vision Statement (Long Form)

*We invite and welcome you to join God's family, the Church, centered on God's everlasting love and the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Spiritually nourished by Word, Sacrament, and Community, we support each other as we journey toward the Kingdom of God.*

### Other Notables to Mention From the Last Year

- Holy Hour with confessions
- Meet the Priest Night
- Marian Consecration
- Father Nathan Cromly Family Event
- National Eucharistic Congress bus trip
- St. Isidore Youth Choir - National Anthem
- St. Isidore the Farmer Feast Day Mass
- Participation in Eucharistic Processions at nearby Family of Parishes
- Lenten Packets

**Stay on top of the latest developments on Beacons of Light, sign up for the free monthly Beacons Update newsletter at: [www.BeaconsAOC.org](http://www.BeaconsAOC.org)**





# DISCIPLE FORMATION

## What is Next? Phase 3: Culture

Vision works when it's purposely incorporated into the parish family and ecclesial culture. The Culture phase will enable the Family Leadership Team and the other leaders to align their strategies and activities with the vision of a vital and missionary Family of Parishes.

Once we have shared the vision statement with all the Ministries and parishioners we can then identify a more concise version. Once a concise version of the vision statement is in place and we identify our core values we will be able to empower our many ministries that are already in place and identify the opportunities to see where the gaps are in walking with all members of the parish, and those in the community, on the Journey to Missionary Discipleship.

In this coming year there will be a focus on a Marriage Catechumenate as it reflects the valuable role of the domestic church. We will continue to prepare guidelines and establish an identifiable and functioning evangelization commission. With the hope of identifying curricula that works well in all the CCD groups and that will allow the teachers and volunteers to substitute in any of the parishes.

Our St. Isidore Stewardship Commission will continue ways to foster gratitude and stewardship as a way of life among the larger population. They will also be intentional in evaluating the hospitality experience of those who enter our churches.

*Thank you for reading!*

<b>BEACONS INFORMATION</b>	<b>ST. ISIDORE FAMILY</b>
<a href="http://www.catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light/learn-more">www.catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light/learn-more</a>	<a href="http://www.stisidorefamily.org">www.stisidorefamily.org</a>