

# PERSONAL JOURNEY:

Helping everyone take their next step  
to be more like Jesus



ST. COLUMBKILLE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## A LEADER'S JOURNEY: A GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH & PARISH LEADERSHIP

## A GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH & PARISH LEADERSHIP

In today's world, we often are led to believe that we must be perfect or "have it all together" before we are fit to lead. Yet, anyone who has been in leadership knows that growth and maturation continues as much after assuming a leadership role as before. All of us are on a journey that continues for the rest of our lives. Hence the title of this booklet: ***A Leader's Journey***.

The journey we are on does not happen in isolation. We are all walking this path together - learning, falling, rising, and becoming more open to God's grace with each step.

At St. Columbkille, we believe that **leadership begins with a relationship with Jesus**. Every leader in our parish community is first and foremost a beloved child of God, called into deeper relationship with Jesus and into service with others.

**The pages ahead are our invitation to you to deepen your relationship with Jesus and His Father.** It is meant to encourage discernment for those feeling the nudge of the Holy Spirit to step into leadership and reflection, prayer, and ongoing spiritual formation for those already leading. Just as Jesus walked with His disciples - teaching, listening, and nurturing them - we, as leaders at St. Columbkille, desire to accompany you in your personal and communal journey of faith.

Our prayer is that the reflections and questions gathered here will guide your journey as you heed to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to lead in the ministries and on the leadership teams that further our community's mission: ***Helping everyone take their next step to be more like Jesus.***

Peace,



Father Patrick Moser

### IN CONCLUSION...

Parish leadership is not easy work, but it is holy work. With God's grace, and in communion with one another, we will continue to build a parish where all are invited to grow, serve, and become more like Jesus ... one step at a time.



*"Let us not grow weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap  
a harvest if we do not give up."*

*- Galatians 6:9*

### III. ONGOING FORMATION FOR LEADERS AT ST. COLUMBKILLE

Those already serving in leadership will be periodically invited to reflect on their experience. There will be opportunities to check in, pray together, and discern how God may be working through current roles, relationships, and responsibilities. This foundation for parish leadership is **an invitation** - grounded in prayer, conversation, and mutual listening. We want each leader to feel **valued, supported, and encouraged** as they continue their personal journey of faith and serve our parish with **joy and integrity**.

Growth in Christian leadership doesn't stop after one conversation - it's a lifelong journey. We want to provide consistent opportunities for leaders to be **spiritually nourished and connected** to one another.

Conversations with fellow leaders or mentors

Written or group reflections on ministry experiences

Annual Leadership Formation Gathering

- A half- or full-day session focused on prayer, learning, and shared vision
- Topics may include mission alignment, leadership habits, characteristics of Jesus' life and ministry, prayer
- Led by parish staff, guest speakers, or trained facilitators

Resource Sharing & Learning

- Reflections from Bishop James Golka, Fr. James Mallon, or parish leadership
- Readings or short videos on mission-focused leadership and spiritual growth
- Opportunities to understand our work to be a missional community

Leadership Mentoring & Accompaniment

- Opportunities for new leaders to be mentored by experienced ones
- Space for honest conversation, spiritual encouragement, and prayer

### AUDIENCE: FOR ALL WHO SERVE

This resource is for everyone **serving in or discerning a leadership role** in the life of our parish, including:

- Parish Staff
- Leadership Councils
- Ministry Leaders
- Catechists in the School, Religious Ed, Adult Formation, and Sacramental Preparation programs

We recognize that each leader brings different gifts, stories, and experiences. Our goal is not uniformity, but unity in purpose - grounded in love for Jesus and one another.



*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”*

*-Luke 24:32*

# DOCUMENT GUIDE

This document is a spiritual framework for leadership at St. Columbkille. Each of the three sections offers a distinct but connected role in identifying and sustaining parish leaders - **people who offer their gifts to the Lord in service of God's holy people at St. Columbkille.**

## I. DISCERNMENT OF LEADERSHIP AT ST. COLUMBKILLE

**Section I** offers a framework for spiritual discernment. Leadership in the Church is never simply a matter of skill or availability; it is a response to a calling. This section helps individuals reflect on whether God may be calling them into leadership at St. Columbkille—and if so, to which specific team or ministry. It takes seriously the role of one's gifts, education, life experience, and history of service, **while grounding the entire process in prayer, conversation, and community accompaniment.**

## II. THE FAITH LIFE OF A LEADER AT ST. COLUMBKILLE

**Section II** paints a picture of what an authentic, lively Catholic faith looks like in daily life. It highlights the spiritual habits and sacramental life that root a leader in Jesus Christ. The Church sees these practices - Eucharist, Reconciliation, daily prayer, Adoration, retreats, and community - **as rich soil in which a leader's faith is nurtured and matures.** In light of our parish mission statement, *"Helping Everyone Take Their Next Step to be More Like Jesus,"* this section reveals how leaders take those steps first—by living lives that are steadily growing in personal holiness.

### Setting Time Apart: Days of Recollection or Annual Retreats

- When have you experienced time away that left a lasting impact on your spiritual journey?
- What kind of setting helps you most connect with God — quiet, nature, guided, communal?
- How might setting time aside for a day of recollection or retreat help renew your leadership and faith?

### Alpha: An Invitation to Rediscover Jesus Together

If you have experienced Alpha ...

- What moments or conversations stayed with you?
- How did Alpha influence your view of God, yourself, or the Church?
- In what ways does your Alpha experience impact your ministry's gatherings?
- Who do you know that might benefit from attending Alpha?

If you have not experienced Alpha yet ...

- What are you curious or hesitant about?
- What would encourage you to take the step and attend Alpha?
- How do you think hospitality and welcome play a role in finding a faith community and deepening bonds within the community?

### Small Groups: Journeying in Faith with Others

- Have you been part of a small group that had a lasting impact on your faith? What made it meaningful?
- How has journeying with others helped you grow in trust, prayer, or spiritual insight?
- What gifts might you bring to a group, or what might you hope to receive?
- If you have never participated in a faith-based, small group, what might encourage you to take that step?

## II. THE FAITH LIFE OF A LEADER AT ST. COLUMBKILLE

### Embracing a Life Rooted in Jesus

Leaders are encouraged to see these **spiritual practices** not as obligations but as the **heartbeat** of developing your relationship with Jesus.

### Living from the Sunday Eucharist

- Leaders are encouraged to see Mass not as an obligation but as the heartbeat of their spiritual life. Reflect on a time when the celebration of the Mass moved you or renewed your spirit.
- What does it mean to you that the church calls the Eucharist our 'source' and 'summit'?
- In what ways has worshipping with our parish community strengthened your connection to your role in ministry or leadership?
- When has receiving the Eucharist been especially meaningful in your personal faith journey?

### Growing in Daily Prayer

- What does your current prayer life look like, and how has it changed over time?
- Recall a moment when prayer helped you navigate a decision, struggle, or transition.
- How do you experience God speaking to you in prayer?

### Receiving God's Mercy through Reconciliation

- How has the Sacrament of Reconciliation impacted your spiritual life?
- Recall a time when receiving God's forgiveness brought clarity, peace, or renewal.
- What might help you feel more open or comfortable with this sacrament?

### Resting in God through Eucharistic Adoration

- What draws you to quiet prayer or time spent in the chapel?
- How has Adoration (or similar quiet prayer time) helped you experience peace, clarity, or love from Christ?
- In what way does silence help you feel more connected to God?

## III. ONGOING FORMATION FOR LEADERS AT ST. COLUMBKILLE

**Section III** reminds us that one never "graduates" from Christian leadership. Even after one says "yes" to a leadership role, there is **always more to receive, more to learn, and more to surrender**. This section offers ways for our leaders to be continually fed and nurtured, so their leadership bears lasting fruit. It also acknowledges the need for pruning - through honest dialogue, spiritual reflection, and communal discernment - so that self-interest gives way to God's will for our parish.

*"If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."*

*- John 13:14-15*



This document is meant to be prayed with, talked about, and returned to often. Whether you are discerning a new role or seeking to grow in one you already hold, may these pages encourage you to encounter Jesus more deeply, and follow Him more faithfully.

## I. DISCERNMENT OF LEADERSHIP AT ST. COLUMBKILLE

### A Culture of Invitation and Accompaniment

Discerning leadership in the Church is not a solo task. We journey together, seeking clarity, openness, and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Rather than thinking of leadership as a role to “fill,” we consider it **a calling to discover and nurture** - one that grows from within our community.

This discernment process begins with relationship: conversations with current leaders, invitations to explore ministry roles, and reflection on where God may be stirring something new for you. Those discerning leadership roles are invited into a **spiritual conversation** with a small team. This is not about qualifying, but **deepening discernment together**.

### Discernment Conversations: Serving and Leading with Mission in Mind

*Reflection Questions on St. Columbkille's Mission: 'Helping Everyone Take Their*

*Next Step to be More Like Jesus':*

- How do you understand the mission of St. Columbkille in your own words?
- Recall a time when you witnessed someone take a next step in their faith journey. What did that mean to you?
- In what ways do you see your leadership assisting others in their Personal Journey?

*Reflection Questions on your Personal Journey:*

- Share a bit about your personal faith journey - moments of being drawn to Jesus, deciding to follow Him, or living and loving like Him.
- How has God been generous to you? Has God's generosity inspired your desire to serve at our parish? If so, how?
- Reflect on what draws you toward deeper service to God's people at St. Columbkille.
- In what areas do you feel God may be inviting you to take a next step?

*Reflection Questions on your Leadership:*

- What leadership experiences have you had serving others?
- What gifts and talents will you bring to this leadership position?
- Do you see this leadership opportunity as a way for your own spiritual growth? If so, how?
- How do you see this leadership opportunity fitting in with your other commitments, i.e., family, work, outside activities?

*“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts  
but the same Spirit; there are different forms  
of service but the same Lord; there are different  
workings but the same God who produces  
all of them in everyone. To each individual the  
manifestation of the Spirit is given for  
some benefit.”*

*-1 Corinthians 12:4-7*