



*St. Blaise Parish*  
Austintown, OH

## **DRAFT VISION DOCUMENT – August 2025**

**A vision document is a way for us to express our hopes for a better future.**

**Proposed title: A Vision for St. Blaise Catholic Parish**

### **Five Aspirations We Have:**

1. **Hospitable:** *St. Blaise aspires to be a parish where diverse people—especially the young, marginalized, and the spiritually curious—are seen and heard. They find belonging, dignity, and joy in a Christ-centered community.*
2. **Lifelong Faith Formation:** *We are becoming a vibrant, intergenerational church that nurtures faith at every stage of life and extends a generous welcome to those who have felt forgotten, judged, or left behind, particularly those who can't leave their homes and those whose lifestyles challenge traditional Catholic thinking.*
3. **Outward Focus:** *Rooted in prayer and service, we will build new partnerships to meet the real needs of our neighbors, transforming Austintown into a more compassionate, connected, and hopeful place.*
4. **Diverse and Unified:** *We seek to cross the bridges that separate us by race, politics, poverty, and lifestyles to become one body in Christ—gathered, growing, and going forth to share generously and love boldly.*
5. **Impactful Worship:** *St. Blaise Parish wants to be known in Austintown both as a place of meaningful Catholic worship, and as a people of welcome, wisdom, and action—where the Gospel is preached and lived.*

(Over)

### **Unified Vision Statement Capturing Our Five Aspirations:**

*St. Blaise Parish envisions itself as a Christ-centered community where diverse people—especially the vulnerable, marginalized, and the spiritually searching—find belonging, purpose, and hope. Rooted in faith and fueled by life-changing worship, we will build new partnerships to meet the real needs of our neighbors, nurture spiritual growth across generations, and transform Austintown into a more connected, compassionate, and joyful place. Here, the Gospel will be preached and lived.*

### **Short Version (for signage, banners, or quick reference)**

*St. Blaise Parish is becoming an increasingly diverse, welcoming, Christ-centered community where faith grows, and love transforms our town.*

### **Liturgical Tone Version (for prayer cards, worship, or reflective settings)**

*As one body in Christ, we at St. Blaise Parish welcome the stranger, lift up the brokenhearted as we celebrate faith joyfully. Rooted in the Gospel, we respond to the call of service to our neighbors, nurture the spirit of all generations, and labor with love for the healing of the world.*

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO [JMERHAUT@STBLAISEAUSTINTOWN.ORG](mailto:JMERHAUT@STBLAISEAUSTINTOWN.ORG). YOU MAY ALSO DROP WRITTEN RESPONSES OFF IN THE COLLECTION BASKET.**

- 1. What in this vision document most excites you about the future of St. Blaise Parish?**
- 2. What excites you about the future of St. Blaise Parish that is missing from this vision document?**
- 3. What else about your hopes for our future would you like to share?**