

# Isanti Area Catholic Community

## All Things New Plan

(Proposed: October 15, 2025)

### Mission

- Building a strong faith community, centered on Christ's love, through discipleship and evangelization. (Isanti ACC Pastoral Council: August 29, 2024)

### Overall Goal

- Develop one unified faith community (merger), while preparing for growth.

### Supporting Goals

#### 1) Foster Stewardship as a Way of Life, understanding that everything that we are blessed with is a gift from God.

- Hire a Disciple Ministry Coordinator (achieved in January 2025).
- Participate in the Msgr. Thomas McGread Stewardship Conference (completed March 19-20, 2025).
- Conduct an ACC Stewardship Renewal Survey (completed in August 2025).
- Begin implementation of Stewardship Renewal (completed in September 2025).
- Meet with Anna Kampa, director of stewardship and development for the diocese, as a consultant for our stewardship newsletter (completed October 10, 2025).
- Strengthen the Isanti ACC Stewardship Committee by adding 3 new members; invite potential members to November 4, 2025, committee meeting.
- Develop and distribute a quarterly Stewardship Newsletter (December 2025).
  - Educate parishioners about Stewardship as a way of Life
  - Foster greater financial transparency
  - Highlight Ministries
  - Encourage greater participation among the laity
- Send new stewardship committee members to Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conference (March 11-12, 2026)
- Create and implement Stewardship for Life mini retreat (May 2026)
- Conduct Stewardship Renewal (September 2026)

\*Continued development of this supporting goal will continue through a collaborative effort of the Pastor, Discipleship Ministry Coordinator, and the Isanti ACC Stewardship committee.

## 2) Forming Missionary Disciples

- Develop a ministerial path of discipleship by using Sheri Waddell's thresholds of discipleship: trust, curiosity, openness, seeking, intentional disciple, missionary disciple. (completed May 2025)
- Our ministerial path of discipleship is: The Search (Formed.org), Growing with Jesus mini-retreat (in house), a variety of formation programs, Called and Gifted (Cathrien of Sienna Institute), thresholds study based on *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sheri Waddell, Stewardship for Life mini-retreat (in house).
- Educate an additional trainer for the Called and Gift Program (achieved August 2025)
- Create and implement Growing with Jesus mini retreat (August 9, 2025)
- Find a leader for Symbolon and schedule Fall classes (achieved; classes began October 4, 2025)
- Begin the next round of OCIA and Continuing Conversion with "The Search," beginning October 11, 2025 (9 students)
- To date we have had 71 parishioners go through the *Called and Gifted* program (Next round starts October 21, 2025)

\*Continued development of this supporting goal will continue through a collaborative effort of the Pastor, Discipleship Ministry Coordinator, and the Isanti ACC Stewardship committee.

## 3) Growing in Friendship

- In addition to those ministries that are along a ministerial path of forming disciples, we are also developing ministries that have a particular purpose, and have a "small Christian community" component to foster friendship. Some of these ministries include, but are not limited to: St. Monica group, Men's groups, Women's groups, Grandparent's group, young adults' group, and youth group.
- These groups operate under a system whereas the main ministry meets at our primary campus (Cambridge) less frequently, while the small Christian communities meet at parishioner's homes or at one of our partner parishes (Isanti & Braham) more frequently.
- Since most of these groups are in the process of developing, the ministry group and the small Christian community may be one in the same at the beginning of the ministry due to numbers. It is simply a large group / small group process, but with the intended purpose of building friendships.

## Buildings and Finance

- To help support the above ministerial practice, we are asking the diocese to lead us in the process of merging three parish corporations (Cambridge-Isanti-Braham) into one new parish corporation with a new name. It would be great if this could happen

at the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2026), but we do understand that the process may take longer.

- We would also ask that Cambridge be named as the primary campus (church), as it is centrally located, has a rectory that is not attached to a church building, houses the ACC central offices, is the only existing campus large enough to host our Faith Formation program, and has great potential for growth.
  - When the Cambridge office manager took a different position at a neighboring parish in July of 2025, the parish offices were merged into one central office with a Pastor, Discipleship Ministry Coordinator, Director of Religious Education (DRE), an Administrative Assistant, and a part-time interim Business Administrator.
  - As of October 15, 2025, the interim Business Administrator became the full-time Business Administrator.
- We are asking the diocese to allow us to keep three Masses, and have provided Mass counts to support our request. We hope to maintain usage of 55% of our pew space in the main body of the church during the merger transition, and then grow. This does not include overflow seating, such as choir lofts, children's rooms, or the front row of pews/chairs that doesn't have a kneeler. See enclosed sheet.

**It has been extremely difficult for us to determine the number of churches that we would need for the new parish.**

When looking at all three campuses it was obvious to the ACC planning team that Cambridge should be the primary campus. It is the only campus capable of providing a rectory, offices, and ministries (without a significant addition/remodel) in the same location, and we want the rectory, offices, and primary ministries to be in the same location. Everything is on one level between two different buildings, and the buildings are well maintained.

When looking at the practical space of the other two campuses it is obvious to the planning team that Isanti has a more attractive campus than Braham. It is all on one level with its buildings attached. It is the only one of the three with a larger gathering space and it has more seating capacity than Cambridge. However, the rectory has been sold and there is not enough classroom space to house our Family Faith Formation program without adapting the program, or adapting/changing space.

The Braham campus is on two levels and doesn't have an elevator, but does have handicap entrances and bathrooms on both levels. The upper level consists of the main Church, an unused two-level rectory, library, bathrooms, and two unused offices. Should we remodel, the unused rectory could be changed into a gathering space with overflow seating. The church basement has a kitchen, parish hall, bathrooms, and classrooms. However, none of the classrooms have egress windows, and most don't have any windows at all. In the near future, we will be looking at significant maintenance. This is also the case in Isanti. Braham is looking at repair/replacement of windows and reroofing. Isanti is looking at repair/replacement of stucco and the replacement of three large HVAC rooftop units.

Unfortunately, we cannot make a decision about the number of buildings needed without knowing the long-term vision of the diocese. Is the longer-term vision to keep the majority of buildings open to keep a Catholic presence in our smaller communities, or is it to reduce the number of buildings as to be more prudent in using resources? For now, we would choose to keep our buildings open.

## Five-Year Vision

Throughout the planning process, we have discussed the possibility of building new, renovating one campus to house everything, or maintaining our existing buildings. This is a challenging question as we simply do not have the long-term vision of the diocese. So, we have put things on hold to see what the process determines about churches. Following the process, we will need time to heal. Then we will form a committee to do greater research, including a feasibility study, and seek professional advice to determine the market value of each campus, before reentering the conversation about building new, renovating, or maintaining our existing buildings.

After we come together as one faith community, and take some time to heal, evangelization will be our next priority as both Cambridge and Isanti are fast growing areas with several new housing developments and apartment buildings. We understand that this plan isn't going to please everyone. Thanks for your consideration.

The Isanti ACC planning team