

FALL 2025

PASTORAL

PLAN

Catholic Community of
St. Francis Xavier

Rev. Binoy Akkalayil Lucka, O.S.S.T. Pastor



📞 410-785-0356

📍 13717 Cuba Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030

🌐 www.ccsfx.org

Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier

13717 Cuba Road
Hunt Valley, MD 21030

410-785-0356
www.ccsfx.org

Fall, 2025

Dear Parish Family,

I truly understand now, more than ever, that we are a family. I feel and experience your love and warmth every day. Thank you for welcoming Fr. Xavier and me as part of your family. Your faith, commitment, and witness inspire me deeply, and I am truly blessed to be part of this wonderful parish and to serve you. It is clear to me that for most of you, the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier is not just a parish, it is your extended family. Thank you for your prayers, support, and great love.

From the moment I arrived, I looked forward to meeting you and getting to know you personally. In just a few short months, I have discovered that this is a well-organized parish with many efficient and dedicated committees, ministries, and volunteers. I am especially grateful for our excellent pastoral planning committee, who have worked hard to prepare this new pastoral plan, summarizing the ideas, dreams, and long-term goals of our parish.

As I present this plan for your reflection and prayer, I ask for your full cooperation and support. I believe our beautiful facilities and many blessings should lead us toward an even higher goal: spiritual growth, and a deeper love of God and neighbor. We move forward together, as one parish family, as people of prayer and service, filled with Christ-like love for all. I especially look forward to seeing the continued spiritual growth of our families, youth, and children.

Many of the goals in this plan are based on our current parish reality and SWOT analysis. We know that parish life can change quickly, and we cannot predict the challenges that lie ahead. For this reason, the plan may need to be updated or revised over time. It is intended to be our guide for living out our Vision, and it will only succeed through the commitment, energy, and partnership of every parishioner. **I encourage each of you to reflect on your God-given gifts and talents, and to prayerfully discern how you can contribute, whether by joining a ministry, supporting a program, or offering your time and treasure in service.**

I believe our parish will grow stronger through the relationships we build, with one another and with God, as we fulfill our Vision and Mission. My prayer is that this beautiful church on the mountaintop will continue to shine brightly, drawing many hearts to Christ. May God bless this plan and each of you, and may St. Francis Xavier, our patron, intercede for us as we work together to love as Christ loves and serve as Christ serves.

With prayers and blessings,

Rev. Binoy Akkalayil Lucka, O.S.S.T.

Pastor

A Quick Sweep of Our History

“Nothing happens unless first a dream,” Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Carl Sandburg wrote. Monsignor Paul Cook shared those words with 104 people gathered at the inaugural Mass held at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, in October of 1986. The Marriott was the site of the new Mass station in Hunt Valley. It was the third parish to be established from St. Joseph; the other two are Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ in Timonium and Our Lady of Grace in Parkton.

In 1988, the Mass station became a mission church. It was to be called The Catholic Community of Hunt Valley, and Fr. Thomas Donellan was named Mission Coordinator. Fr. Tom blended skills in planning with a passion for how faith formation and parish life could be different. He was anxious to put both gifts at the disposal of the new community.

His planning skills were greatly tested as he worked with members of the community to form a vision for the new parish, fight never-ending zoning battles, oversee set up and break down weekly of hotel space, hire staff, raise money for a building, and fight even more never-ending zoning battles. He persevered. By 1992, the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier was incorporated as a parish, with Fr. Donellan as the founding pastor. In 1998, the parish community moved to *Serenity Farms* on Cuba Road. The parish continued to develop ways of being a community, with home based faith formation, a robust outreach to others, a way of understanding parish participation as ownership, and an emphasis on adult formation.

With a new home on Cuba Road, the parish saw new growth, and a new pastor. Fr. Jeffrey Dausen was appointed pastor and served from 1999 to 2005. Under his leadership, the parish, its various ministries, and a generous spirit of service to others flourished. He was followed by Fr. Frank Brauer, our pastor for 13 years, who shepherded the parish through COVID. Live-streamed and Outdoor Masses became the order of the day, and Fr. Frank along with the parish adjusted. Fr. Frank was followed by Fr. Kevin Farmer, who served the parish from 2021 to 2023. During Fr. Kevin’s time, he was asked to form a pastorate with Our Lady of Grace and oversee both parishes. He was followed by Fr. Ferdinand Ezenwachi, who served as interim administrator for the pastorate. The pastorate was dissolved, and Fr. Rick Hilgartner was named as administrator in 2024. His gift to the parish was establishing a process to develop a pastoral plan.

It must be mentioned that our clergy presence has been enriched by the Jesuits, who provided continuous ministerial support for 35 years, Sulpicians, various diocesan priests, and others who have served our community in faithful and loving ways. Their assistance made for colorful homilies, joyful baptism celebrations, weddings and funerals. Deacon Don is another clergy member who has been a loyal and strong presence here.

In July of 2025, Fr. Binoy Akkalayil was appointed pastor. The arrival of Fr. Binoy and his associate, Fr. Xavier Ouseph Kachappilly, marked a few firsts for our parish. It was the first time we had Trinitarians (the order that Frs. Binoy and Xavier belong to), and the first time we had an assigned associate pastor.

The Holy Father declared this as a Jubilee Year of Hope. And there is great hope at the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier. While it is traditional for parish histories to list the names of pastors throughout the years, and we have followed suit, it is only a part of the story at CCSFX.

The History of the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier is told through countless women and men who have sung in our choirs, served meals to those who would have little or nothing to eat, sponsored families at Christmas, and formed young people. It is the history of young people who have served as sacristans and altar servers, or at Parish Perk. It is a story of gracious hospitality to those who have walked through our doors and found a home. Our story is strengthened in remembrances of staff people who have touched the lives of parishioners in a myriad of ways. It is supported in prayer in our liturgies, our prayer groups, and our adult faith formation. It is part of a continuing story of God's faithfulness from age to age.

The names of those who have built and supported this community are far too many to mention here. We, however, speak their names reverently and collectively when we say, "We are the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier!"

This article relied heavily on the work of our parish history for our anniversary program.

Who are the Trinitarians?

Fathers Binoy and Xavier are both Trinitarians. Which prompts the question, "Who are the Trinitarians?" Their website offers this:

The Trinitarian order was founded in the year 1198 to ransom Christian captives. Trinitarian priests, brothers, sisters and laity have dedicated themselves to works of mercy and redemption. We have a special concern for those who suffer persecution for their faith in Christ.

Trinitarians remain committed to works of mercy and redemption around the world. Our priests and brothers serve the poor in remote areas and in cities, we educate those whose faith is in peril, and when necessary we minister undercover in places where it is illegal to practice the Faith. Whether we are serving in parish ministry, schools, prisons, or the missions, we strive to imitate the unity and love of the Most Holy Trinity.



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

The mission of the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier is to be a life-giving community of faith, worship, love, and service which proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pillars

Jesus teaches us to be like "the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old" (Matt 13:52). Every so often, it is good for us to reflect on where we have been, and where we are going. We need to bring out from the storeroom our traditions and strengths which built this community. And we need to bring out the new, to dare to ask the question: "Where is God calling us to be now and in the near future?"

To do this, our planning team read Archbishop Lori's pastoral letter, *A Light Brightly Visible*, which presented six mission priorities for the Archdiocese. Adopting those priorities as our own, they became the pillars around which we developed our pastoral plan. These six pillars will lend support to our mission, and focus our prayer that we will continue to grow as missionary disciples.

In this process we learned much about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats affecting our path toward being the parish that we are called to be. We heard from parishioners and committee representatives and leadership that we are doing some things extraordinarily well. Some pillars are in great shape. We also learned that some pillars are in need of our immediate attention. Those pillars become our initial focus.

The following chart reflects Archbishop Lori's document, with our own community's adaptations.

MISSION PILLARS OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Liturgy

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier embraces the call to "full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy."



It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, Most High, to proclaim your love at daybreak, your faithfulness in the night. Psalm 92:1

Welcome and Hospitality

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier strives to be a community where all are welcomed, known and loved.



Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves. Hebrews 13:1-3

Encounter

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier promotes a culture of encounter, where people can meet Christ in the Word, sacraments, and in one another.



Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. James 4:8

Accompaniment

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier ensures that people receive support and are accompanied on their faith journeys.



Iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

Sending Forth

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier empowers missionary disciples to go forth, living and sharing the Gospel—the Good News of Jesus Christ—in the world.



Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Mission Support

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier invites all to use their time, talents, and treasure for the glory of God and the building up of the community.



As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

CCSFX Pastoral Plan

1.0 Liturgy

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier is a body of believers that seeks to grow more deeply in love with Jesus Christ and his Church. The Eucharist is at the very heart of who we are. In the liturgy, we receive Jesus Christ and in gratitude we give thanks to God. It is in our liturgy that the Word is broken open and our lives transformed by the Eucharist. Through the sacred liturgy, our discipleship is deepened, and our hearts are set on fire to invite others to the love and joy that is the Gospel. The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier embraces the call to “full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy.”

1.1 Strengthen invitation to Mass and Reconciliation

Do What	Who
Start weekday Mass five days a week.	Fr. Binoy, Fr. Xavier
Track & increase attendance at daily and Sunday masses.	Fr. Binoy, Fr. Xavier, Communications
Increase social media presence by having weekly posts on Facebook and regular posts on Instagram sharing the good news of our parish.	Communications, Susan Bacich
Call and email each new parishioner and welcome them to the parish, or consider a house visit.	Mission & Planning
Strengthen support for Children’s Liturgy of the Word and record attendance numbers.	Kathy Redifer-Murphy
Reach out to managed residential complexes, inviting residents to worship with us.	Fr. Xavier
Provide catechesis for the Sacrament of Penance, and increase opportunities for People to attend.	Fr. Binoy

1.2 Strengthen music ministry and singing by the assembly.

Do What	Who
Strengthen ongoing formation for cantors and provide each with a growth plan.	Margaret Hochla
Announce liturgical music selections 2 months ahead of time so the choir, cantors, and assembly can become more familiar. Promote existing worship aid.	Margaret Hochla
Increase use of uplifting and lively liturgical music.	Margaret Hochla
Add at least five new members to the choir.	Margaret Hochla

1.3 Adjust audio/visual to maximize our potential.

Do What	Who
Create pre-sets and labels for A/V system to simplify control.	Liturgy
Train audio and visual systems operators.	Liturgy
Assess AV systems, e.g. new speakers for clarity and dead zones.	Liturgy
Investigate costs for upgrading our sound for hearing impaired.	Liturgy

1.4 Liturgical formation

Do What	Who
Provide formation on liturgical seasons, etc. in weekly bulletin.	Liturgy
Offer one teaching Mass during the year.	Fr. Binoy
Offer formation at Liturgy Committee meetings.	Ruth Puls, Margaret Hochla
Identify leaders for each ministry.	Fr. Binoy
Recruit new members for liturgical ministries.	Liturgy
Train greeters, ushers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, cantors, music ministers, altar servers, readers, and sacristans for their ministry, stressing ministry, excellence, hospitality and enthusiasm.	Liturgy

1.5 Increase novenas, prayers and other devotions.

Do What	Who
Begin novenas and other appropriate devotions for the parish. (e.g., St. Michael of the Saints (patron of cancer patients).	Fr. Binoy, Fr. Xavier
Provide opportunities for prayers for persecuted Christians, a special concern for Trinitarians.	Fr. Binoy, Fr. Xavier
Increase opportunities for parishioners to participate regularly in Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet.	Fr. Binoy
Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier on December 3.	Liturgy

2.0 Welcome and Hospitality

Hospitality has long been a charism of the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier, and we know we can extend that welcome to even more people. We envision a community that welcomes people as Christ would welcome them; we seek to be a Catholic community where all are invited and called by name. We believe that we can be a center of hospitality to those who are in need, for those who are sick or persons with disabilities, and for those who have been away too long, or those seeking forgiveness and mercy. The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier should be a welcoming and hospitable church where all are welcome.

2.1 Be a community where all are welcomed, known and loved.

Do What	Who
Host a regularly scheduled welcome reception for newcomers.	Renee Murphy, Jim Pendergast
Update the parish directory. (Allow for opt-in or opt-out.)	Mission & Planning
Improve our website presence by updating existing pages and creating new pages for parish, driving traffic to our website.	Kathy Smith
Create new website on supported platform with high res images.	Communications
Reach out to those who have been away from the parish. Gather insight about why people leave CCSFX, and why others join.	Jeanne Blakeslee, Pam Custer
Develop printed material for outreach to promote the parish.	Jim Pendergast

2.2 Strengthen bonds in our community.

Do What	Who
Continue to provide events such as: parish picnics, Parish Perks, Happy Hours on the Hill and breakfast with Santa	Renee Murphy, Kay Kufera
Organize monthly social and game nights.	Kay Kufera
Form a Multicultural Committee to develop a calendar of events to celebrate our diversity.	Pam Du
Plan to celebrate an International Dinner	Multicultural
Promote Masses and special events through newspaper ads, articles, social media, and postcards. (cf 1.1)	Communications
Reach out to new housing developments and nearby new townhomes to welcome people and extend an invitation. (cf 1.1)	Communications

3.0 Encounter

Jesus Christ is alive and present to us now. Our hearts need only be open to encountering the Risen Christ. We also need to be open to receiving the forgiveness and mercy, the love and the peace that he so freely gives. When an individual encounters Christ, all of life looks different. We begin to grow in our love of God, deepen our love of neighbor, and are open to encountering Christ in sacraments and prayer. We grow in our desire to know and to live church teaching. We as individuals are transformed and invite others to “come and see.” A group of people in a parish that have been open to that encounter can transform the parish and beyond. The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier can grow more deeply in becoming that parish.

3.1 Increase our presence in the community and provide opportunities to share faith.

Do What	Who
Form small group house meetings to engage in spiritual reflection	Fr. Binoy
Provide opportunity for gathering following the Saturday evening Mass (eg. simple dinner and movie night, presentation, etc.)	Fr. Xavier
Provide retreat opportunities.	Fr. Binoy
Investigate online catholic media subscriptions for use by parishioners, small groups, formation.	Fr. Binoy
Recruit catechists	Fr. Binoy
Meet with young families to discuss ways we can provide support.	Fr. Xavier, Fr. Binoy

3.2 Increase opportunities for prayer and devotion.

Do What	Who
Ask homebound to intercede for our parish, our archdiocese, our country and our world and provide lists of intentions.	Kathy Sack
Continue Eucharistic adoration with invitation and formation.	Fr. Binoy

4.0 Accompaniment

One of life's greatest blessings is to have someone accompany you. To walk with someone as they experience the newness of the Christian life is beautiful. To help another struggle through issues they are having with church teaching is a great grace. To share in Bible Studies or develop spiritual friendships, or participating in the OCIA are all ways of promoting spiritual friendship. The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier is a community seeking to accompany people looking for guidance on their path.

4.1 Co-determine with youth, young adults, and married couples ways to deepen connection with parish and one another.

Do What	Who
Provide formation in evangelization, missionary discipleship, and discernment of gifts.	Planning Team/Mission & Planning
Grow our ministries to children, youth and families.	Fr. Xavier
Provide faith based activities for young adults (18-25).	Fr. Xavier
Grow number of Marriage prep sponsor couples.	Kay and Joe Kufera
Expand baptismal prep class, followed by welcome breakfast and invitation to register.	Ruth Puls, Mission & Planning
Facilitate Marriage Enrichment/Marriage Encounter (e.g., The Lasting Connection, date night)	Kay and Joe Kufera

4.2 Care for parishioners in challenging situations.

Do What	Who
Develop a Pastoral Care Committee	Pat Allshouse
Continue to recruit and train pastoral visitors.	Kathy Sack
Strengthen and promote bereavement outreach.	Ann Marie Labin
Establish an Emergency Medical Team (Schedule CPR class for parishioners)	John Isaacs

5.0 Sending Forth

Missionary disciples in the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier must commit to going beyond our property boundaries. We must seek to invite, encourage, and accompany people throughout Hunt Valley and beyond. We must expand our support to those who are marginalized. We want to be open to persons of different faiths, and to people of no faith. We must grow our numbers of missionary disciples.

5.1 Strengthen existing Ministries of Outreach

Do What	Who
Promote sandwich making ministry, breakfast bags, casseroles, grief ministry (grocery shopping), Franciscan Center volunteering, Advocacy email list, Room at the Table, UCAN and poor box, providing parishioners with a greater understanding and an invitation to participate and contribute.	Amy Mason
Increase advocacy for a consistent ethic of life.	Amy Mason
Develop outreach to the elderly.	Fr. Xavier

5.2 Actively share our faith with the wider community, inviting others to join us.

Do What	Who
Offer house visits, blessings, pet blessings.	Fr. Binoy, Fr. Xavier
Organize Christmas caroling to the homebound, and at residential complexes.	Margaret Hochla, Fr. Binoy, Kathy Sack
Be a visible presence to wider community (hotels, apartment complexes, Ash Wednesday in Hunt Valley square, Christmas carols, rosary)	

6.0 Mission Support

The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier stands on the shoulders of giants. We have one of the most beautiful campuses in the archdiocese. We have a church that houses our many needs. To provide adequate mission support, we need to continually invite people to consider serving in the various ministries. We want to provide the financial support necessary to take the Gospel message throughout our zip code and beyond. Finally, God has blessed us with so very much. We want to be a community that reaches out to people that have less.

6.1 Strengthen involvement of parishioner time and talent.

Do What	Who
Develop a robust year-long parish calendar.	Kathy Smith
Create a Pastoral Council.	Fr. Binoy
Clarify the identity of the parish by updating the mission/vision statement.	Pastoral council subcommittee
Form lay leadership in Core Mission Pillars.	Ruth Puls, w/AoB Office of Parish Renewal
Re-examine and reorganize structures of committees, ministries, and other volunteer groups. Recruit members and raise new leaders.	Pastoral Council, Mission & Planning, committee chairs
Re-establish Stewardship as an active committee.	Fr. Binoy, Pastoral Council

6.2 Continuously upgrade the facility.

Do What	Who
Organize the work of the Facilities & Grounds Committee to utilize the talents and experience of parishioners with maintenance, skilled trade, and IT experience.	Pastoral Council, Jennifer Perry, Ed Tutin, Fr. Binoy
Address issues of deferred maintenance and identify future needs.	Facilities & Grounds
Improve signage around the property and facilities.	Communications, Facilities & Grounds
Develop an outdoor Stations of the Cross path (consult Ron Myers).	Facilities & Grounds

6.3 Maintain a fiscally sound parish supported by all parishioners.

Do What	Who
Develop plans to assist financial stability including, but not limited to: encouraging online giving, organizing fundraising events, establishing further collections.	Fr. Binoy, Stewardship
Increase revenue streams.	Stewardship
Communicate targeted giving options, e.g. maintenance collection	Stewardship, Communications
Strengthen financial management practices	Finance
Establish a financial oversight effort to improve accountability.	Finance
Communicate regularly with parishioners to improve accountability.	Finance
Evaluate programs in light of mission priorities and finances.	Pastoral Council, Finance
Utilize stewardship materials from AoB regarding planned giving, will writing, education about "why" stewardship is important.	Stewardship

With gratitude to the parishioners who worked to create this plan:

Planning Team

Jim Momorella (Chair)
Jeanne Blakeslee (Communications)
Peter Fenwick (Finance)
Fr. Xavier Ouseph (Associate Pastor)
Ruth Puls (Staff)
Nick Russo (Mission & Planning)
Kristen Stamathis (AoB Office of Parish Renewal)

Advisory Panel

Pat Allshouse
Matias Caceres
Janet D'Agostino
Katie Fox
Bob Friday
Bill Gray
Julissa Lambruschini
Jim Pendergast
Marce Scarbrough
Sue Strom
Mary Vaden

Leadership Team

Cheryl Barrows (Martha & Mary)
Kellie Cannon
Rob Cannon
Zane Forshee
Mary Pat Gray (Liturgy)
John Isaacs
Amy Mason (Outreach & Advocacy)
Renee Murphy (Community Activities)

Staff

Jennifer Perry
Kathy Blair Smith

And scores of other parishioners and staff who consulted with the teams.

