

## **Goal**

Following in the footsteps of our patron, St. Gilbert, we resolve to be a family of formation for the sanctification of all our members and the local community. As a parish of the archdiocese of Chicago, united in our burning desire to love and serve God and neighbor, we are confident in our mission of helping all become ever more conformed to Jesus Christ. 'He must increase; I must decrease.' (John 3:30) As we share and strengthen the graces we have been given, we place our trust in the Lord that we will become a joyful witness to the living faith in Jesus Christ.

To be a community where this living faith in Jesus Christ is fostered and celebrated, so that we might love God and neighbor, we must become a school of love for the Lord. Since its earliest years, St. Gilbert's has been dedicated to the education of children in knowledge and holiness. Drawing on this strength, we recognize that the Lord calls us to be a voice in the wilderness, preparing a way for the Lord, so that the whole family of St. Gilbert's grows in the knowledge, practice, and love of the faith in Jesus Christ and His Church. In this way when the world looks to us they will know us by our love (John 13:35) and recognize Christ, for "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

## **Process**

In order to become branches which bear good fruit, we must first enter the school of love to be pruned and shaped into true disciples (John 15:1-10), assured that what good work the Lord has begun He will bring to completion (Phil 1:6). In this way we can better live out the greatest commandment (Mark 13:29-31).<sup>1</sup> We shall be a school of prayer where we learn to love God with our hearts and souls, in private prayer and in our communal devotions and liturgy, especially at the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith. We shall be a school of knowledge for all the faithful, at whatever stage they may be, so that prepared with the authentic teaching as handed down from the apostles, people may come to know the Lord. We shall be a school of spiritual athletes, who, armed with the sacraments, are prepared to run the good race and fight the good fight (2 Tim 4:7-8, 1 Cor 9:24 ff), to witness mightily to the works of the Lord (Ps. 136). In this way families and individuals will be trained to be leaven in this world. Love of the Lord is not complete without love of neighbor, thus we shall be a school of service, where we learn to reach out with servant hearts to our neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ. By learning to live and pass on this greatest commandment, we strive to live out our baptismal call.

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<sup>1</sup> Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

**Commitment**

Recognizing that those to whom much is given much is to be expected (Lk 12:48) and recalling the last words of St. Gilbert, "it falls now to you to press on", we firmly resolve to become compelling, joyful evangelists to the faith of Jesus Christ within us, ever ready to make an account of that faith (1 Peter 3:14-15). Dedicated to the will of the Father, formed by Jesus Christ the Son, and empowered by the Spirit, with the aid of the intercession of our Most Blessed Mother, St. Gilbert, and the Saints, we promise to cooperate with zeal and faithfulness in the building up of the Kingdom of God.