



St. Andrew, St. Mary, and St. Theresa Catholic Churches as Centers for Health and Healing: A Declaration of Intent

As scripture informs us that Christ was (and is) a Center for Health and Healing, so too must the body of Christ at St. Andrew, St. Mary, and St. Theresa be Centers for Health and Healing. *Matthew 4:23 says, "And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people."*(NASB) As we at St. Mary, St. Theresa, and St. Andrew prepare for and undertake an advancement of our health and healing ministries, including the health and healing of all kinds of diseases and illnesses, we do so with the following considerations.

1. We recognize the solid scriptural support for such an endeavor in both the Old and New Testaments. Health and healing are major themes of the entire bible. Health and healing are also major themes of our Catholic theology.
2. Such advancement in our health and healing ministries represents a better modeling of the whole ministry of Christ which includes his teaching, preaching, AND healing. There will be no lessening of our teaching of the Catholic faith or in the preaching of the gospel. An enhancement of our health and healing ministries will only come to enhance the effectiveness of our teaching and preaching ministries.
3. Our health and healing ministries will be guided by prayer in which we speak to our Lord and He speaks to us. Day by day, this effort will be directed by prayer.
4. We recognize the great value of traditional healthcare and regard such care as a Godly blessing. We also recognize all of health and healing does not come from our professional healers (e.g. doctors and nurses), hospitals, or other representatives and institutions of the health care industry. In this area of health and healing, we as a group of parishioners at St. Theresa, St. Mary, and St. Andrew have something meaningful to offer too – including something meaningful for all kinds of diseases and illnesses.
5. We will identify a person or group of people who will be charged with making progress on St. Andrew, St. Theresa, and St. Mary becoming vibrant Centers for Health and Healing.
6. We recognize that becoming Centers for Health and Healing will take time. We believe God will bless our pursuit of this most holy endeavor and recognize there is joy in the journey.
7. We acknowledge the need to become more informed on health and healing. We need to learn what good science says and what the bible says. The bible is a rich source of health information and health principles. We as communities of faith will benefit from this additional and Godly perspective.
8. Through formal and informal methods we will identify the health needs of our congregation and the community we serve.
9. We will identify the health resources within our congregations. We at St. Mary, St. Andrew, and St. Theresa are a rich source of talent, compassion, and service.
10. We will maximize the effectiveness of our existing health and healing ministries, and to better serve our congregation and community we will launch additional health and healing ministries as needed.
11. We will maintain an on-going awareness of the health messages communicated at St. Theresa, St. Andrew and St. Mary. As institutions what we do by example has great power.
12. We recognize the attention God requires of us in caring for the poor and the vulnerable, and furthermore recognize the health of our congregation and our community is based on how well we care for our poor and vulnerable.