Next STEPS

...on your journey of faith

holy family parish

love God, love others, make discipes

Find your next STEP...

Discipleship requires action, but that doesn't mean you need special talents, or a complex plan and the perfect circumstances to execute it - in fact it's much better to **break it down into small, simple steps.** This allows us to approach it with a greater sense of purpose, and when we've got partners on the path, the journey is less difficult.

Scripture and Tradition outline five major steps we all need to take to become fully devoted followers of Christ. They **shouldn't be seen as obligations** that need to be checked off, but rather as **opportunities for intentional positive life change**. They allow us to develop habits and environments which fuel our transformation, and as we grow in faith individually, we also grow closer as a parish community, all moving forward together in the same direction.

God draws us closer to Him through any of these steps at any time. Therefore, it is important to note that **they don't need to be taken all at once**, and even though **STEPS** is an acronym, **the steps are "fluid" and can be taken in any order**, often cycling around in various ways and in different times throughout one's life.

Discern, Commit and Act

Read the summary of each step, and come back to them over time. Then through discussion, prayer and reflection – **discern which of the Next STEPS God is calling you to take.**

Don't overthink it, don't aim for perfection, and don't be afraid to start small – small steps lead to big changes – **what's essential is that you do something!**

Use the bottom half of the pages (and a journal if needed) to **brainstorm ideas, consider the possibilities, and plan the Next STEPS** that fit your life at this time.
Next – **Commit to taking action**, by stating exactly what you'll do, and when you'll do it.
Finally – **Act!** Take your steps from intention to action, and see them bear fruit in your life, and in the lives of others.

Serve in a Ministry

Service is essential to growth as a follower of Jesus Christ. Growing in discipleship requires us to have a servant's heart. As a church, if we are to make an impact on our community and the world, we all need to be committed to giving our time in service. Through service in our parish, to each other, and to the wider community, we encounter the Lord, and allow others to encounter Him through us.

With the gifts and talents God has given you, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into the right ministry, and live your mission with passion and joy!

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Notes / ideas:

My Next STEP will be:

I commit to taking this STEP by (date):

I did it
(tick when done)

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Tithe or Give

The Church needs financial resources to function. If we increase giving, the Church can accomplish more. But that's not why this is a step on the path toward spiritual development. God wants our hearts. Jesus constantly taught that our money and possessions often hold our hearts instead.

Taking this step simply means being intentional about giving, making it a priority, and giving a percentage of what we have as an act of worship, moving in the direction of tithing. A donation of one hourly wage per week could be a good place to begin.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be." (Matthew 6:21)

Notes / ideas:

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I commit to taking this STEP by (date):

I did it
(tick when done)

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E Engage in a Small Group

A Small Group gives you an extended family that encourages, supports and grows in faith with you. It's a place where you can search and ask questions about life and God.

We challenge all parishioners to get up out of the pews (where you sit in rows) and get into a small group (where you sit in a circle). There, you can share your faith, learn from others' life experiences, receive support from other members, and help carry other people's burdens. We call our small groups "schools for discipleship".

"You and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith, yours and mine" (Romans 1 :12)

Notes / ideas:

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I did it
(tick when done)

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Practice Prayer; Celebrate the Sacraments

Prayer and the celebration of the sacraments help us grow in our love for God. Without them our souls can go malnourished.

Taking this step means bringing all of your cares and concerns before the Lord in a daily quiet time. Choose a time and place for personal prayer, engage in bible study, scripture reading, eucharistic adoration, and the Rosary. Be fully present in your faith, strengthen your relationship with God, and commit to active participation in the Eucharist.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

Notes / ideas:

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I did it
(tick when done)

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Share Your Faith through Evangelization

Jesus commissioned us to go out into the world to lead people who are unconnected to God into a relationship with him. When we share our faith, we're helping the Church grow and we're growing too – faith grows when it is shared.

Sharing your faith can seem intimidating, especially in a culture that isn't always open to it. The most powerful way is to share your own personal experience, focussing on how your faith positively impacts your life. This is best done within relationships between friends, family, co-workers, at home, at school, the rink, in the pub or even at the grocery store.
Take this step by looking for opportunities to **invest** and **invite**: **invest** in relationships in the community, and when its right, **invite** them to church.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Notes / ideas:

My Next STEP will be:

I commit to taking this STEP by (date):

I did it
(tick when done)

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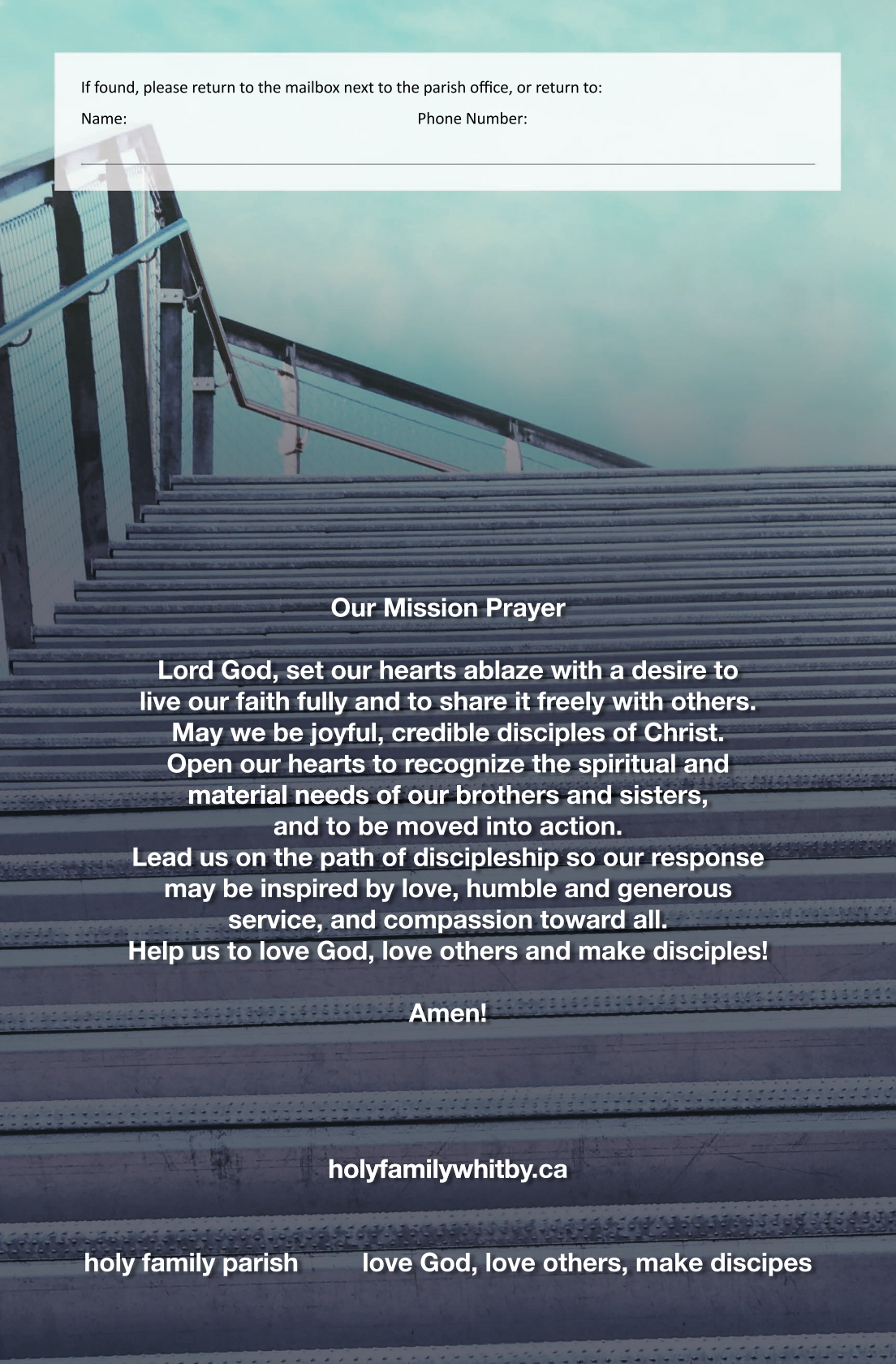
If found, please return to the mailbox next to the parish office, or return to:

Name: Phone Number:



Our Mission Prayer

Lord God, set our hearts ablaze with a desire to live our faith fully and to share it freely with others. May we be joyful, credible disciples of Christ. Open our hearts to recognize the spiritual and material needs of our brothers and sisters, and to be moved into action. Lead us on the path of discipleship so our response may be inspired by love, humble and generous service, and compassion toward all. Help us to love God, love others and make disciples!

Amen!

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