

All Saints Parish
Statement of Welcome and Affirmation

As Catholics, we put our faith and hope in our loving God who created the world through an almighty Word, redeemed the world through the Word made flesh, and sanctified the world through tongues of fire that speak all languages.

At the Second Vatican Council, Catholic leaders called the Church – *the People of God* – to open-up to the realities of the world, to respond readily to those who are oppressed and marginalized within the world, and to speak the Gospel boldly to that world, which aches for a hopeful message.

As a *Roman Catholic Parish*, we believe that all people are worthy of respect and love, because all are created in the image of God. We recognize, celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us.

We acknowledge that throughout history, Christian Churches have often condemned and excluded people because of race, culture, age, gender, economic status, disability, gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

The Catholic Church has made some progress towards welcoming many minority groups, but has yet to extend a full welcome to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (*LGBT*) community. The overwhelming perception within the *LGBT* community is that they are not welcome in most Catholic Churches. We feel compelled to make explicit our welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons into the life of our *All Saints Parish*.

Therefore, we declare ourselves to be an *open* and *affirming* Catholic Parish. We commit to model a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing and wholeness of life for all people. We believe that through our diversity all can grow and practice a unity of faith that celebrates both our differences and our similarities in a spirit of mutual respect.

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