

Family of Parishes  
Update #1 March 2019

As we prepare for the full implementation of our Family of Parishes in July, we would like to keep all members of the family informed of our progress. Since the Bishop's January announcement of our family, we have been hard at work preparing for July.

Our family is comprised of four parish communities: Our Lady of the Atonement (1338), St. Anthony of Padua Hungarian (87), St. John Vianney (1650) and St. Vincent de Paul (346). The number in brackets denotes approximate registered families on the books receiving parish mailings, etc.

Within our family, we provide spiritual care to 4 elementary schools: L A Desmarais, W J Langlois, H J Lassaline and St. John Vianney. We also provide chaplaincy to St. Joseph Secondary.

There are 3 nursing homes that receive pastoral care: Aspen Lake, Heron Terrace and Riverside Place. There is also spiritual care provided to Rivard Seniors Apartment.

The pastoral team of our family includes: Fr. Robert Rocheleau-Pastor, Fr. Daniel Bombardier-Associate Pastor, Rachelle Leslie-Pastoral Minister and Maria Mollica-Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Fr. Rob and Fr. Daniel will provide all sacramental ministry at the three English-speaking parishes. Sacramental ministry for St. Anthony of Padua Parish will continue to be provided by Franciscan priests from Detroit (Fr. Barnabas and Fr. Angelus) under the pastorship of Fr. Rob.

A transition team has been formed with members representing all 4 communities. Their task is to assist the pastoral team in planning for the future and in helping provide input to decisions needing to be made in a variety of areas: facilities assessment, weekend and weekday mass schedules, staffing, office location, determining a name for the family (each parish will retain its own name) which will be sent to Bishop Fabbro for his approval and developing a pastoral plan for the family.

Members are: Andrea Bartha-St. Anthony; Helen Biales-St. John Vianney; Annemarie Bondy-Our Lady of the Atonement; Tony D'Andrea-St. Vincent de Paul; Mark Garant-Our Lady of the Atonement; George McMahon-St. John Vianney; Pam Meunier-Our Lady of the Atonement; John Miklosi-St. Anthony; Darryl Quimby-St. Anthony; Jules Santarossa-St. Vincent de Paul; Chrisandra Skipper-St. John Vianney.

These members will form one new Parish Council for the Family in July. Feel free to speak to any of the members with questions you may have or contact Fr. Rob (519-735-6023) or Fr. Daniel (519-945-4106) directly. This team will be meeting regularly to plan for July and beyond.

Many existing parish groups will be combined in order to serve the entire family and provide a broader outreach of ministry such as finance, building, missions, liturgy. Other existing parish groups (i.e. Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society) will be assessed and encouraged to work together as the family moves forward to avoid unnecessary duplication and increase ministry opportunities. The pastoral team will work to bring cohesion to ministry objectives such as sacramental preparation, faith formation, outreach to the sick and homebound and youth ministry.

We are planning a number of spiritual and social gatherings over the next few months to enable all members of our Family to pray and socialize together. Stay tuned to parish bulletins, bulletin boards and websites for further information about these events

During this Lenten Season, let us pray for one another. May these special days help each one of us in our Family of Parishes to grow in holiness and in an awareness of the essential call to be intentional disciples: embracing the Gospel and becoming vibrant and enthusiastic witnesses of faith. Transition is a necessary part of life and change needs to be embraced with trust and openness. Each one of us needs to be committed to living the Gospel faithfully, sharing our gifts and proclaiming the message of Jesus. May the Holy Spirit be our guide and our strength on this journey. Fr. Rob Rocheleau