



"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community." (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel)



March 2024

Dear Parishioner:

The Kettering Catholic Community has entered Phase 2 of the Beacons of Light Process, which calls us to set a Vision for our Family of Parishes for the next 5 years. To that end, our community was selected by the Archdiocese as one of 12 Families of Parishes to take part in the Next Generation Parish experience with the help of the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI). This selection is an amazing testament to the confidence the Archdiocese has in the leadership of our clergy and staff, our current strengths, and our future potential. As a result of this selection, we will have the benefit of expert guidance from a consultant with the Catholic Leadership Institute who will guide us through the Beacons of Light process. All costs are covered through the generosity of several benefactors within the Archdiocese, so there will be no monetary cost to our Family of Parishes. What will be required is the commitment of many of you, our parishioners, to become involved and support the collective vision we create for the future of the Kettering Catholic Community.

CLI's track record of success in helping communities like ours navigate pastoral planning is unmatched, and we're blessed to be working with them.

Based on more than 25 years of experience working with Catholic leaders, CLI has identified 4 elements which define a Next Generation Parish. Our goal is to transform our community into one that:

- ◆ **Fosters spiritual maturity** and a plan for discipleship of their members.
- ◆ **Shares leadership** by maintaining a commitment to a healthy organization.
- ◆ **Offers vibrant Sunday experiences** with excellent homilies, music and hospitality.
- ◆ **Embraces a missionary impulse** to go out and bring others to Jesus.

An Envisioning Team made up of members from all three parishes began meeting this past fall. Their work is focused on assessing our combined strengths and opportunities for growth, and setting a path forward. As they near completion of their efforts, they'll share the results of their work and reach out in a variety of ways to engage as many parishioners as possible in turning vision into reality.

Our future is full of hope! We are excited by the opportunities that stand before us, and we will continue to keep you informed as we move through the Beacons of Light process, with Christ always at the center of our mission. We ask that you hold our Envisioning Team in prayer, just as they will do for you.

Like the generations before us who built the parishes we now call home, we are called to build the future. This is our moment to provide a lasting foundation for the generations that follow.

For a brief description of the planning process with Next Generation Parish, and the makeup of our Envisioning Team, see the reverse of this page. For more information about Beacons of Light, visit pathway.catholicaoc.org.

In Christ,
The KCC Parish Envisioning Team

NEXT GENERATION PARISH—HOW DO WE DO THIS?

The Beacons of Light Process with Next Generation Parish

Phase 1: Prepare
Through Fall 2023

Phase 2: Envision and Plan
began November 2023

Phase 3: Implement

Phase 4: Assess, Learn, and Begin Again



Meet our Envisioning Team

Parishioners:

- ♦ Mary Lou Braun (St. Charles)
- ♦ Tim Brown (St. Charles)
- ♦ Mark Burian (St. Charles)
- ♦ Susan Ferguson (Ascension)
- ♦ Elisabeth Friel (Ascension)
- ♦ Pat Higgins (St. Albert)
- ♦ Matt Joseph (Ascension)

Clergy:

- ♦ Father Ed Pratt
- ♦ Father Chibueze Asiegbulem
- ♦ Father Tom Nevels

Pastoral Staff:

- ♦ Ann Gross (Ascension)
- ♦ Tom Hutchinson (St. Albert, KCC Leadership Team)
- ♦ Chris Kreger (St. Charles, KCC Leadership Team)
- ♦ Ann McManus (St. Albert)
- ♦ Joe Ollier (Ascension, KCC Leadership Team)

Beacons of Light Pathway Leader:

Cathy Magness (KCC Leadership team)

Consultant:

Linda Banecker (Catholic Leadership Institute)

What Our Team is Saying:

"I feel very fortunate to be a part of this process. The members of this team are committed to discerning a hope-filled vision for our parish family that serves us well into the future. There has been honest, fruitful conversation and a real openness to the possibilities before us. There is much work ahead of us, but I am confident that with the Holy Spirit as our Guide, the best is yet to come."

- Ann McManus

"This has been an outstanding experience with an exceptional group of Christ-centered individuals from all three parishes - working together as a team to develop an exciting plan for the future of our Kettering Catholic Community."

- Mark Burian

"It has been a real blessing to get to meet and to collaborate with members from St. Albert and Ascension to chart the vision for our combined Faith Family under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

- Timothy Brown

"I have appreciated our resolve to speak from the heart and listen with the heart as we grapple with how best to bring our Kettering Catholic Community to fruition. We have chosen hope over discord; to view this as opportunity; and to honor the gifts of the Spirit that emanate from all of us in all corners of Ascension, St. Albert, and St. Charles."

- Elisabeth Friel