

A New All Saints – July 1st 2018
Parish Unification Q&A Session: April 14th and 15th

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Why are we unifying the parishes?

The current model of parish life which has been presented to us is not sustainable for the long-term. Attempting to maintain five separate worshipping communities in five locations for one pastor and one pastoral staff, is in no way realistic for the pastor, the staff, or the people they are committed to serve. This unification provides an opportunity to combine our resources and deepen our connection to each other.

How did we come to this decision?

In February of 2013 our Parishes held our first Joint Parish Assembly. One of the outcomes of this first Parish Assembly was to task the Joint Pastoral Council to conduct a sustainability study, to seek out how we can best sustain a viable Catholic presence in this rural area of Seneca County.

After doing a regional search and conducting detailed interviews, we obtained the services of RCM Architects, of Findlay Ohio. They, in turn, did an extensive assessment of all of our physical sites, in order to address current maintenance needs, assess future maintenance needs, and project upgrades at all sites to meet current ADA standards. A second Parish Assembly was held in 2016 so that the results of the RCM document could be presented to all Parish members. A preliminary consensus was reached at this Parish Assembly regarding the options presented.

Virtually the same consensus that was reached at the second Parish Assembly, was again reached at each of the different listening sessions in June 2016. Overwhelmingly at all Listening Sessions, the pathway toward sustainability centered around either the building up of one site at the New Riegel campus; or to build and maintain two separate sites, one in New Riegel and one in Bascom, while strictly limiting the use of the other three chapels.

For over a year-and-a-half after the Listening Sessions, the Pastoral Council prayed, talked, debated, disagreed...and in many ways...became immobilized in reluctance...hoping that there would be a pathway that would make every member of our Council happy, and that would make everyone in the parish happy.

After much deliberation, the Joint Pastoral Council and both Finance Councils did come to a consensus and announced to the parishes that the best way forward for a sustainable future was to unite as one Parish.

What is the new Mass schedule?

The proposed daily Mass schedule will be 5 p.m. on Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with all daily Masses being held at New Riegel. The proposed schedule for weekend liturgies is 5 p.m. on Saturday at New Riegel, 8 a.m. on Sunday morning at Bascom, and 10 a.m. Sunday morning in New Riegel.

In summary, the celebration of daily Mass, weekend liturgies, baptisms, weddings and sacraments will primarily be limited to the two Church sites in Bascom and in New Riegel. Sacraments will no longer be celebrated in the chapel sites at Liberty, Frenchtown and Alvada.

What will happen to the chapels?

We will primarily concentrate our efforts at the two sites in Bascom and New Riegel. We will maintain the three chapels as best we can for as long as we reasonably can, so that they might be used for daily devotions. Families may request that funerals be celebrated in the Chapels until June 30, 2019.

What will happen to the individual church accounts already designated for a specific use?

All accounts designated for specific use, such as for maintenance of particular sites, care for particular cemeteries, or other Ministries, will be maintained by the Finance Council for those specified uses and Ministries. New accounts shall be established for care of all sites and long-term maintenance and planning. When the monies in the designated accounts are depleted then monies from the new accounts from the newly United Parish will be drawn upon.

Why are we maintaining the All Saints name if we are becoming one new parish?

Collectively our two parishes are really comprised of members from six different former Faith communities: Saints Peter and Paul, Alvada, St. Patrick, Bascom, Saint Nicholas, Frenchtown, some members from St James, Kansas, Saint Boniface, New Riegel and Saint Andrew, Liberty. It is agreeable to our Leadership Team and our Councils that we seek the patronage of All the Saints. This will be an efficient and effective resolution, minimizing the administrative burdens, consolidating banking accounts, and the many other administrative details that come from merging parishes.

Why are we moving the parish offices from the rectory to the All Saints parish hall?

This effort will separate the office from the pastor's residence, which is part of the Pastoral Council's plan for long-term sustainability. It allows the parish office to be open more regularly, providing greater availability to the parish, while also affording greater accessibility to pastoral staff members, without interfering with a healthy lifestyle for the pastor. Two areas in the Parish Hall are being renovated to accommodate a common space for the pastoral staff. Much of the material being used has been repurposed from Marathon Oil, Findlay as they renovate and upgrade their corporate offices. The move to this renovated classroom is a temporary step in our five year plan, which includes a new Parish Hall and Parish offices

Aren't we going to lose parishioners by unifying?

We are aware that there will be some who will be unable to transition from two parishes to one... We remain open and recognize our need to provide compassionate and competent ministry to them in the ways that we best can. We will do our best to shepherd them to other parishes where they may feel more open to membership and to active participation. The doors of All Saints Parish will always be open to them and to all.

When the chapels are closed can we still be buried in those cemeteries?

Yes. All cemeteries will be maintained by the newly formed All Saints Parish, and burials will continue to take place on those sacred grounds. While our former parishes will be united under the new name of All Saints, and the churches and chapels will reflect that new name. The cemeteries however, since are registered with the State, must retain their original names. This has more to do with state property laws than with pastoral responsibilities. Each of our cemeteries have a long and proud history reflecting our faith communities love and respect for the ones buried there. We are grateful to our cemetery caretakers, and those who have served on our cemetery boards. Guidelines for the cemeteries in our care, as well as information on costs, services and maintenance can be obtained from the parish office, and will be available online at the parish website.

What will the 5 sites be known as of July 2018?

All Saints Parish – Bascom Site
All Saints Parish – New Riegel Site
All Saints Parish – Alvada Funeral Chapel
All Saints Parish – Liberty Funeral Chapel
All Saints Parish – Frenchtown Funeral Chapel

How long before we decide what is the future of the chapels?

No decision has been made and there currently is no timeline for the future of the chapels. The Pastor, aided by recommendations from the Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Maintenance Committee will always be responsible to oversee the use and care of all the lands and properties entrusted to a parish. They must continually evaluate the wise and just use of all parish resources in light of the mission and goals of the parish community.

Are we going to take the Blessed Sacrament out of the chapels?

We intend to maintain a Eucharistic presence in all chapels at least until June 30, 2019.

Why did we do the sustainability study if we aren't going to fix up those buildings?

The sustainability study was to help us examine the current condition of all our properties, to forecast future costs for maintenance and repairs at each site and to evaluate those costs considering the current and projected ministry needs and the mission and goals of our faith communities.

What do we plan to do with all the resources in our chapels and buildings as we reduce to utilizing two worship sites?

The pastor always has responsibility for the kind and wise care of all the people and properties entrusted to his care by the Bishop. Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils are the major recommending bodies when it comes to advising the pastor in caring for the temporal goods of the parish. The pastor is also served by Liturgy Committees, Pastoral Staffs, Maintenance Committees and other ministry teams who all have the service and best interest of the parish in mind. All that we possess has been given from generous hearts for the good of the Church. We will always be mindful of the generous sacrifices of others and will always seek the best and wisest use of the goods entrusted to the work of Christ and His Church.