



August 13, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As the academic and religious education year is nearly upon us, I have some updates regarding the parish religious formation programs.

First, there have been major changes in the formation staff among the parishes. Over the summer, Mr. John Pryme, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, and Mrs. Kristin Adsit, Director of Religious Education, exited their positions for other opportunities. While disappointed to lose these committed employees, I pray that God abundantly bless them both, especially after so many years of service to the parishes and Church.

Over the course of years the parishes have seen consistent negative trends across the board including: a decrease in the number of students; inconsistency in attendance; and difficulty in recruiting volunteer catechists. For these reasons, much of the program has been adapted into combined classes.

This situation has led to the decision to combine most of the Tri Parish Faith Formation program into St. Katharine Drexel. While the younger children up to Grade 2 will remain at the Tri Parishes, the remaining Grade 3 through Confirmation age students will attend religious education at St. Katharine Drexel on Wednesday evenings.

The Annunciation Faith Formation Program will continue to operate as it has with all grades at Annunciation Church in Fox Lake. The one exception is that, like last year, the Confirmation students will join the students at St. Joseph in Waupun. St. Joseph, too, will continue to operate at St. Joseph's campus.

The amount of organization and planning that goes into the religious education programs is extensive requiring attention to many details. As the parishes share priests and move into a season of deeper collaboration, the formation programs and staff will ultimately be a part of this too. Naturally, this requires a calculated and well-planned response which takes longer to implement. For the time being, a group of committed volunteer catechists have graciously stepped up to support the students and families in fulfilling the coordination of these details. Additionally, the parishes are blessed to have Mr. Peter Laning step into the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry position. With these catechists, the Pastoral Council, and other invested parishioners, I continue to explore our present options to fill the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation position. I will communicate about this as we move into the future.

Sincerely,

Reverend William Arnold

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