

Beacons of Light - New Families of Parishes Announced December 5, 2021

Archbishop Schnurr has announced the 60 new Families of Parish that will become effective July 1, 2022. There are a few local changes in the previously proposed Families of Parishes.

The biggest change locally is that Our Lady of Guadalupe, Montezuma will remain part of the current Celina Cluster which will be combined with the St. Mary's Cluster. The new NorthWest Family # 2 will consist of IC, Celina; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Montezuma; St. Teresa, Rockford; Holy Rosary, St. Marys; and St. Patrick, Glynwood. The plan is to have three Archdiocesan priests serve this family. That means the Precious Blood priests will no longer be serving in any of the current Celina Cluster parishes after July 1, 2022.

The new configuration of NorthWest family # 7 will be the current Marion and Minster Clusters along with Holy Redeemer, New Bremen for a total of eight parishes served by three Precious Blood priests.

The reason for the change in the families of parishes, particularly Our Lady of Guadalupe, Montezuma remaining connected with the Celina Cluster and Holy Redeemer, New Bremen joined with the Marion and Minster Clusters, is the result of Archbishop Schnurr and staff listening to the many comments given by priests and parishioners. They also cited the good working relationships that have already been formed in the current Celina Cluster. We realize this may be mixed news for parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe as those with Celina connections are probably happy and those with Marion connections may have preferred being combined with the Marion Cluster. The good news is that with three priests, it is likely that most Masses and services will be able to continue although there will likely be changes in times and Masses.

A few comments about the next steps:

- The Archdiocesan plan is to have pastors and parochial vicars assigned by February or March 2022, but they will still need to be serving in their current assignments until July 1, 2022
- As mentioned, there may need to be adjustments in the Sunday Mass schedule before July 1st. If so, an interim Mass schedule for 6 to 12 months will be recommended while the Families of Parishes are being formed.
- Planning groups and committees will be set up in each Family of Parishes after July 1st (probably in early September) to begin the process of forming the new Family of Parishes.
- Please visit BeaconsAOC.org for more details about the Families of Parishes.

Let us pray that our new Families of Parishes may be beacons of light and hope, radiating the love of Christ.

Blessings and prayers, Fr. Ken