

# Parish Family Newsletter

JUNE 19, 2022

Northeast 10 Family of Parishes



Holy Cross | Our Lady of the Rosary | St. Christopher | St. John the Baptist | St. Peter

## THE MISSION IN TRANSITION

I know, there are plenty of jokes about the Israelites could have stopped to ask for directions to the Promised Land, but instead, they stubbornly followed their own way.

But as with all jokes, there is a semblance of truth. Last week, they had this intense longing for the old ways of Egypt. This week, I would like to reflect on that long and winding road which they trod from Egypt to the Promised Land. Along a direct route, they could have made it in a few months, tops. Yet, the Lord led them through forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

The question is 'Why?' What took so long?

The long answer plays out throughout the Book of Exodus and into all the historical books of the Old Testament. The short answer is that God already worked to get them out of Egypt, now He had to work to get the Egypt out of them. So many things had to be rooted out of their hearts: the longing for the old things of Egypt, the Golden Calf, the comfort in a place of slavery instead of comfort and security in the Lord.

It takes time to change those hearts; forty years in fact. Forty years so that the entire generation of the Israelites could turn over and a whole new nation of people could enter the place of freedom.

Now, I certainly do not wish for that to happen here!

But the realization is still true: it takes time. It takes time to mourn the familiarity that was present prior: 'we knew the priest and he knew us,' for example. It takes time to adjust to a new reality. It takes time to say goodbye to an old identity and embrace a new one.

But even in saying goodbye to that old identity, we never actually leave it behind. The People of Israel were marked by those years of slavery, it helped define how they related to the stranger in their midst; or at least it was supposed to do so.

As we move forward into the new reality of this Family of Parishes slowly becoming one; we do not leave behind the unique gifts from each parish; rather we need to build up and hold up those gifts as contributions to the whole. Because then the new reality becomes more colorful, more lively; richer across the board.

The last few things before we get there: This process will take a while. I know we all want to know what that reality is that we are entering into, and I am working with a team of staff from all five parishes to help develop this new reality. Consultations will be made with Pastoral Councils, with worship and finance commissions, etc., to help develop this mission.

In all of this: we have a mission. We have a call to be purified and strengthened. In this process, we must allow the allurements of the world to fall behind and away so that we can enter into this new reality with hearts made pure and ready to worship the Lord together in Spirit and truth.



**In Christ,**  
**Fr. Kyle Schnippel**  
*Pastor*