

# Parish Family Newsletter

JULY 3, 2022

Northeast 10 Family of Parishes



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

## WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

In some ways, as we officially begin our new Family of Parishes this weekend, I feel like the Apostles must have felt upon the Ascension of Jesus: 'What do we do next?' Akin to that is wondering how the Israelites felt when they finally crossed the Jordan River and entered into the Promised Land: 'We have been preparing for this for so long, what do we do now?'

Gratefully in both of these situations, they were not left orphaned or abandoned; the Spirit was there to guide them in both instances: in the Acts of the Apostles, the Spirit leads Peter, James and John to start preaching. Eventually, Paul will join their ranks and lead the nascent Church from a small subset of Judaism into the worldwide presence that She is today. In the Book of Joshua, Joshua picks up the mantle left behind by Moses and takes on the call of leadership to begin the conquest of the Promised Land, so that the People of Israel can make this new place their home.

Again, in both of these situations, there is still much to do when they arrive at that key point.

And wow, as I look around, I recognized that there is still much to do in our situation, too! Even though we have done lots of planning, even though we have put so much into place already; there is still much to do. But I am confident that the Spirit will guide us in this process as He led the Early Church and as He led Joshua in the conquest of the Promised Land.

There is even another layer in this process that reassures me, too: these things that await us do not need to be decided today. The Church did not become who She is today in one fell swoop: she grew and developed and slowly made that transition from subset of Judaism into Her own unique reality as the Living Bride of Christ. In the same way, even by the end of the Book of Joshua, the conquest of the Promised Land was not fully complete. It would continue for years beyond, finally being settled by David's capture of Jerusalem as his capital city.

This should give us some slight reassurance, as I know there are still many, many questions that await us; many of which we haven't even asked yet! But we will address them as they arise.

So the same appeal remains in effect: pray! Please pray for our new Family of Parishes; please pray for me, as your pastor, to make wise and effective decisions guided by the promptings of the Spirit; please pray for each other, to truly become brothers and sisters in the Lord! Together, we will walk forward into this new reality with grace, dignity and a deeper love and respect for Jesus and His activity in and amongst us.

Alas, a few small details remain to be said at this point: your collection envelop will always be given to your parish. If you drop your envelop for St. John the Baptist at Our Lady of the Rosary, it will be brought over to Tipp City. In fact, even if you dropped it at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Naples, Florida, it would still be sent back!

This reflects the various stages that we will go through in this process: the last stage is the combination of finances, and this will not happen for a few years yet.

Please know of my prayers for you and your families and I look forward to getting to know the parishioners at St. Christopher and St. John the Baptist, while continuing to walk with parishioners at Holy Cross, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Peter.



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