

Holy Trinity Church  
205 Glebe Street  
Johnstown, New York 12095  
518 762 2011

Church of the Holy Spirit  
153 S Main Street  
Gloversville, New York 12078  
518 725 3143

October 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Holy Trinity Church and Church of the Holy Spirit Linked Communities

Greetings to all of you on this beautiful autumn day. I hope that you have been enjoying the warm, scenic fall that God has blessed us with.

I am writing to you to let you know about an office staffing update that will continue to unfold over the next month. The update is both bittersweet as well as an exciting new chapter for our linked communities.

As you may recall, our communities became linked when my predecessor, Fr. Don Czelusniak, was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Church in addition to his other duties as pastor of Church of the Holy Spirit in early 2013. I was fortunate enough to be assigned as his associate starting in May 2013 during the initial months of the linkage. At the time, both parishes offered three Masses each weekend, they both had individual pastoral councils, and they maintained separate staff. It was generally understood that over time, there would be only one active priest to serve the communities as well as the sharing of staff. The reality is that there are only about 70 active parish priests to serve our 126 diocesan parishes. The sharing of priests is a common practice throughout the diocese. Likewise, with the decline in the number of parishioners attending weekend Masses, the evolving nature of the local population, and the reduction of offertory revenue due to a multitude of reasons (generous envelope users moving or passing away, etc), the sharing of staff would become an economic and practical necessity.

I mention all of these situations to help explain why there will be an official reorganization of staff starting on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Part of the reorganization has already taken place. As you may recall, Cindy Kollar, our long-tenured director of faith formation for Holy Trinity, retired at the end of August. Ann Simonson accepted the responsibility for Holy Trinity faith formation in addition to her duties at Holy Spirit. Ann is already making wonderful progress

in making connections with the Johnstown community and will no doubt continue to excel in her role.

On a related note, I am happy to announce that Liz Anderson will serve as the newly appointed Linked Parish Business Manager starting on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. She will have the responsibility of maintaining the books, cemetery oversight for the parish operated cemeteries, and the general day to day operations for both parishes. She has performed wonderfully in her previous role as the office manager for Church of the Holy Spirit. I am sure that she will do well with the additional responsibilities in Johnstown.

Likewise, Michele Miller will serve as the newly appointed Linked Parish Administrative Assistant. Her start date will also be Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. She has served as an excellent secretary at Holy Trinity and will continue to be an asset in this newly created role. I thank you in advance for praying for these very dedicated employees. We are fortunate to have them.

Naturally, these developments mean that there are incumbent employees who will be transitioning soon. In addition to missing Cindy Kollar after nearly twenty years of employment at Holy Trinity, we will also miss the service of Jaime Kosowicz (secretary at Church of the Holy Spirit) and Jeannie Popp (administrative assistant at Holy Trinity Church). Jeannie and Jaime have served the Johnstown and Gloversville parish communities in a variety of roles for decades. Their final work day will be Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for their dedicated service and we wish them well.

Change is rarely easy. We know that it will take some time for this to become our “new normal.” Yet we also trust that the wisdom of God will continue to guide us and help us along the way. I am optimistic about the future for the local church here in Gloversville and Johnstown. I thank you for your continued prayers and support in the continuation of this journey.

God Bless,

Fr. Matt Wetsel