



The waiting is hard. We might feel heavily burdened by uncertainty. During this season of Lent, we may find ourselves relating in a different way to our recent Old Testament readings in which the Israelites grumbled against Moses in the desert. Yet we have faith and trust in the process of our Journey in Faith recalling Archbishop Zinkula's words:

"If we walk this path with courage, with faith, and with love—listening to one another and to God— we can renew our Church and build something lasting for generations to come."

As part of the preparation for pastorate life, our parish staff is participating in a "prep series" presented by the archdiocese. We take this opportunity to share with you what we have learned in the past several weeks.

Timeline

In the second week of April, the final pastorate plan will be announced. The announcement will include which parishes will be working together as a pastorate, which priests will serve in that pastorate, where weekend Masses will be located, and how many weekend Masses will be celebrated at each church.

Beginning July 15, 2026 and continuing through January 15, 2027 we will follow an interim Mass schedule. A series of parish meetings will be held during this time to assess and develop a plan for ministry and evangelization. Plans will be approved and implemented beginning in January, 2027.

Mass Counts and Data Collection

Beginning this month, all parishes are doing weekly Mass counts. Mass counts will be used to help in the creation of the interim Mass schedule, to evaluate how the interim Mass schedule is working, and to assist in making changes to the Mass schedule after January 15, 2027, if needed.

All parishes collected and submitted other parish data concerning daily operations, lists of parishioners, liturgical ministers, and committees and their members.

Councils, Commissions, and Committees

As we look forward to collaboration with other parishes starting in July, St. Anthony parish is planning for both parish-level and pastorate-level leadership groups. In addition to parish pastoral councils and parish finance councils, there will be pastorate-level commissions in each of these areas. The pastorate pastoral commission and pastorate finance commission will have representation from all parishes within a pastorate.

Parish-level councils will remain focused on items directly related to each parish. Pastorate-level commissions will focus on working together as a pastorate, including the creation and championing of the pastorate implementation plan to be developed this fall. Current parish pastoral council and parish finance council members will learn more at their upcoming meetings.

Rectories and Living Spaces

The priests assigned to each pastorate will meet in late spring to determine what living arrangements will look like within the pastorate. To assist with this process, all parishes completed a “rectory and living spaces” survey to provide the new group of priests with information on the rectory facility within our parish. Based on this information, the archdiocese will make the final determination regarding priests’ living arrangements.

Resources

The Journey in Faith website is a valuable source of information. We encourage you to visit the site: www.dbqjourneyinfaith.org

Our St. Anthony website is also updated with current information, and we will continue to provide updates in the bulletin as we learn of them.

Please reach out to anyone on our staff with questions or concerns. We are here to support each other always, but especially during this time of transition.