



St. Gabriel the Archangel

FAMILY OF PARISHES

January 21, 2026

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati
100 E. 8th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Archbishop Casey:

The St. Gabriel the Archangel Family of Parishes consists of five parishes: Holy Cross Lithuanian in Old North Dayton, founded in 1914 with the church built in 1964; Our Lady of the Rosary in Old North Dayton, founded in 1887 with the church built in 1918; St. Peter in Huber Heights, founded in 1960 with the church built in 1979; St. Christopher in Vandalia, founded in 1957 with the church built in 1994; and St. John the Baptist in Tipp City, founded in 1858, with the church built in 1998.

For over 25 years, Our Lady of the Rosary and Holy Cross have shared a pastor, which originally included two since-closed parishes: St. Adalbert (closed in 2021), and St. Stephen (closed in 2015). Since 2015, Our Lady of the Rosary, Holy Cross, and St. Peter have shared a pastor and administrative staff. In 2020, St. Christopher and St. John the Baptist were united under one pastor and parochial vicar but otherwise remained administratively separate. Since July 1, 2022, we have been operating as a Family of Parishes, under the leadership of one pastor, two parochial vicars, one priest in residence, and assisted by two retired priests. We have a combined staff of roughly 30 parish employees and 170 school employees.

Over the last three and a half years, the St. Gabriel the Archangel Family of Parishes has experienced tremendous change and growth, guided by the Beacons of Light Pastoral Planning Process. As such, we believe we are ready to canonically merge from five parishes into one, under the title of St. Gabriel the Archangel. It has been a blessing and a challenge to arrive at this point, but one to which we have made steady and sure progress.

From day one as a Family of Parishes, I have challenged the staff to think as employees of the Family of Parishes, rather than as an employee of a single parish. They have responded to this challenge with creativity, ingenuity, and resourcefulness in building the Family of Parishes into what it is today.

We currently operate as a single cohesive unit. The business operations side of the Family acts as one. We have a human resources officer, director of operations, chief financial officer, and a bookkeeper, for instance. Working together, we have been able to implement an online, digital-based tracking system for accounts payable and receivable. This system tracks estimated versus actual costs in real time, alerting us if there are significant discrepancies between the two, allowing us to be proactive in fraud detection and prevention.

Holy Cross	Our Lady of the Rosary	St. Christopher	St. John the Baptist	St. Peter
1924 Leo Street Dayton, OH 45404 937.233.1503	22 Notre Dame Avenue Dayton, OH 45404 937.233.1503	435 East National Road Vandalia, OH 45377 937.898.3542	753 South Hyatt Street Tipp City, OH 45371 937.667.3419	6161 Chambersburg Road Huber Heights, OH 45424 937.233.1503

SGFP.ORG

We are migrating all our banking into one location, allowing us to leverage the combined checking and savings for better returns on these investments. Luckily, we have not required a line of credit, but this merger of finances has allowed us to achieve a much better interest rate than one parish alone.

The Parish Business Office has also better enabled our three parish grade schools to operate more efficiently. We are slowly but steadily combining our purchasing power to lower rates and find better deals for each of the schools. We have technical experts who are evaluating the facility needs of each school building, allowing us to better forecast school growth trends, which guide our decision-making processes for facility renewal and expansion.

Finally, when we experience an event when something goes sideways, such as a major flood at St. Christopher School in January 2025, we can pull crew from other locations to reopen the building as quickly and safely as possible.

With all the above, we are well on our way to achieving the operational excellence that was called for in the Beacons of Light Pastoral Planning Process.

This operational excellence on the business operations side of the Family of Parishes has empowered growth on the Pastoral Ministries side of the Family as well. We see tremendous numbers in our OCIA process. Adult Faith Formation programming sees attendance in the hundreds, not just the tens. And we are able to implement programming together that would simply not be possible as a single parish unit. Examples of all of these follow.

During 2025, during the Jubilee Year of Hope, we hosted Fifteen Minute Faith Formation sessions at three Masses on the last weekend of every month. To date, nearly 1,000 people have stayed for a small faith boost from fellow parishes, all focused by Pope Francis’ call to be Pilgrims of Hope in the modern world.

In Lent of 2025, and then again in October 2025, we hosted parish missions. The Lenten Mission featured the three full-time priests assigned to the Family at the time, all focused on growing in relationship with God. I reflected on how to grow in trust of God the Father’s providential love. Fr. Robert Hale reflected on walking with Jesus, the Divine Son of God in the Modern World. Fr. Andrew Smith reflected on the power of the Holy Spirit, enflaming the hearts of the faithful. Roughly 150 people attended each reflection.

Fr. Leo Patalinghuag joined the Family of Parishes for the October 2025 Parish Mission, under the title of ‘Ignite!’ Over a weekend where he joined our Family for three Masses, which was followed by a cook-off between him and me, and two nights of talks, we had over 300 at each night listening to Fr. Leo’s powerful reflections on trusting God in the modern world. In short, it was a tremendous win, and one which would not have been accomplished as a solo, stand-alone parish. A team of individuals from across the Family came together, as one, to empower this Mission and bring it to successful completion.

Our Youth Ministry and Faith Formation programming continues to grow and flourish, as well. We recently sent 30 individuals, youth and chaperones, to the National Catholic Youth Conference, as a sign of continued growth in our youth ministry programming. At our Confirmation Retreats, high school students lead their junior high peers through reflections on the role and power of the Holy Spirit, whom they are soon to receive in the Sacrament. Across all five locations, the Confirmation, First Reconciliation, and First Communion preparations have all been standardized.

Holy Cross	Our Lady of the Rosary	St. Christopher	St. John the Baptist	St. Peter
1924 Leo Street	22 Notre Dame Avenue	435 East National Road	753 South Hyatt Street	6161 Chambersburg Road
Dayton, OH 45404	Dayton, OH 45404	Vandalia, OH 45377	Tipp City, OH 45371	Huber Heights, OH 45424
937.233.1503	937.233.1503	937.898.3542	937.667.3419	937.233.1503
SGFP.ORG				

Other organizations within the Family of Parishes continue to work closer together as well. Prior to the formation of the Family, one parish had a Catholic Daughters of America chapter. As that chapter went through its own discernment process, they restructured to allow members from all five parishes to join and have become the Gabriel Angels. The three Knights of Columbus Chapters that we have work together on a regular basis as well.

But the growth is not just in larger programming or in larger groups coming together. The growth of our Family has allowed smaller groups to flourish, too. A *Visio Divina* prayer group has formed, praying through imagery and art. With only 12-15 regular members, no one parish could form a cohort worth supporting, but the five together have surfaced a membership that thrives, even if small. We can invest in smaller groups like this because if we were separate parishes, maybe only one or two persons would come forward, now we reach ten to twenty in these groups. All of this allows us to offer something to near everyone within our Family, all with an eye toward growth in faith, growth in discipleship, and growth in a deeper relationship with the God who calls them His beloved sons and daughters.

This growth is reflected in our three parish grade schools as well: Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Peter, and St. Christopher. Over the last three and a half years, our overall enrollment has steadily increased, to the point that we need to seriously consider adding four classroom spaces at Our Lady of the Rosary and six classroom spaces at St. Christopher to accommodate the growth! (Each year, we graduate four 8th grade classrooms, while we introduce seven or eight kindergarten classrooms.)

Our growth in school enrollment has led directly to a growth in enrollment in our OCIA numbers, as well. Because of the faith, which is modeled in our schools, we see five to ten families enter the Church, yearly. And they stay involved, too. Our principals live the faith themselves, which inspires a growth in discipleship among our teachers. As the teachers witness to the beauty of a life lived in Christ Jesus, Our Lord; the students and their families see that and desire it as well. It is not that we talk about the roadmap of discipleship, but it is certainly lived out in these parishes and in these schools.

Finally, I think of other markers of success to which we can point that validate the good work being done here by so many. Our overall Mass count numbers continue to climb, even though we have fewer Masses now than we did prior to the implementation of the Family of Parishes. Our parishioners are financially supporting the mission and care of the Family as well. We raised nearly a million dollars for the renovation work at St. John the Baptist, resulting in a space that is much more dignified and worthy of the Worship that takes place within those sacred walls. St. Peter just completed the financial support needed to cover the replacement of the main air conditioning and air handling systems in the main church building. When the flood hit St. Christopher, we did not have to go to parishioners for our costs, they came to us pledging support before we even had to ask. We ended the fiscal year 2024/25 with \$1.5 million more than we started the fiscal year. Our parishioners have responded favorably to the formation of this Family of Parishes, for which I am very grateful.

In October and November of 2025, I conducted five town hall meetings, one at each location, to review the formation of the Family of Parishes and to discuss the next steps in the formation of this Family into one canonical parish. Concerns were voiced about how we would work out the finances in such a complex organization. However, there was also strong support voiced towards moving forward. I assured those who expressed their concern that we would take these concerns seriously as we moved forward and would continue to communicate our decisions as we made them. We do have many things yet to tackle, yet we have made significant progress in the last three and a half years and will continue to do so as we grow into one parish community with five sites where the Lord is worshiped in Spirit and Truth.

Holy Cross	Our Lady of the Rosary	St. Christopher	St. John the Baptist	St. Peter
1924 Leo Street Dayton, OH 45404 937.233.1503	22 Notre Dame Avenue Dayton, OH 45404 937.233.1503	435 East National Road Vandalia, OH 45377 937.898.3542	753 South Hyatt Street Tipp City, OH 45371 937.667.3419	6161 Chambersburg Road Huber Heights, OH 45424 937.233.1503
SGFP.ORG				

With all of the above, I humbly request that you, Archbishop Casey, grant the extinctive union by merger of the five parishes of Holy Cross Lithuanian, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Peter, St. Christopher, and St. John the Baptist into one new canonical parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, for the following reasons:

- 1) Due to a declining number of priests within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, sharing the governing responsibilities between the five parishes under the leadership of one pastor and one pastoral team has enabled the growth outlined above.
- 2) Additionally, due to the complexities of being a pastor in this age, this shared responsibility allows priests who may not have the gifts of serving as pastor to flourish in a supporting role.
- 3) The parishioners of these parishes have generally responded well to this new reality, as outlined above, and demonstrate increased and varied ways of collaboration between the five locations.
- 4) The pastoral staff has been united and operates as a cohesive unit, driving growth in discipleship and membership across all five locations.
- 5) This merger will foster stability and growth in the local Catholic Church by putting into place a parish configuration which can remain secure into the future.
- 6) Our three parochial elementary schools will be better equipped to strategically grow enrollment, together.
- 7) The administrative burdens on clergy and staff will be reduced by such a unification.
- 8) This merger allows for better leverage of purchasing volumes from schools and churches to lower costs
- 9) Master Maintenance Plan is being developed to better utilize parishioner donations
- 10) Technology will be utilized to link our internal processes and systems to carry our mission to all parishioners.

We intend to continue to use all five churches as sacred spaces for the worship of God by the parishioners. I propose that St. Christopher Church be designated as the parochial church, with the other four churches remaining as subsidiary churches.

With gratitude for your consideration of this proposal, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Kyle Schnippel, Pastor

Signature page follows

Holy Cross	Our Lady of the Rosary	St. Christopher	St. John the Baptist	St. Peter
1924 Leo Street Dayton, OH 45404 937.233.1503	22 Notre Dame Avenue Dayton, OH 45404 937.233.1503	435 East National Road Vandalia, OH 45377 937.898.3542	753 South Hyatt Street Tipp City, OH 45371 937.667.3419	6161 Chambersburg Road Huber Heights, OH 45424 937.233.1503
SGFP.ORG				

SGFP Leadership Team

Fr. Andrew Smith – Vicar

Fr. Chibueze Asiesbulem – Vicar

Norm Shearer – Operations

Tim O’Loughlin – Mission

Elise Sas – Evangelization

Tracy Harnish – Human Resources

Samuel Ritze – Stewardship

SGFP Pastoral Council

Chris Kneif - Chair

Jon Duren – Vice Chair

Hector Guevara

Josh Doseck

Tabitha Bentz

Geone Neria

Nancy Calvelage

Joel Stammen

Mary Beth Paget

Holy Cross

1924 Leo Street
Dayton, OH 45404
937.233.1503

Our Lady of the Rosary

22 Notre Dame Avenue
Dayton, OH 45404
937.233.1503

St. Christopher

435 East National Road
Vandalia, OH 45377
937.898.3542

St. John the Baptist

753 South Hyatt Street
Tipp City, OH 45371
937.667.3419

St. Peter

6161 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
937.233.1503

SGFP Finance Committee

SGFP Pastoral Council - continued

Rick Jobe

Matt Ross

Jim Dieli