

Who is helping with the transition of our parishes into a Pastorate?

The Archdiocesan Office of the Parish Renewal has appointed a two-person Emmaus Team to our parishes to help with planning and implementation of the Pastorate. Additionally, we have formed a Pastorate Formation Team with a goal of developing a pastorate vision statement, a pastorate prayer, and a communications plan. The Team is comprised of clergy, staff and parishioners of both St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc parishes.

What can I do to help the formation of our pastorate?

We encourage you to continue to pray for a successful formation of our pastorate. You might have already heard at either parish a special intercession during Sunday's Universal Prayer for our pastorate. Soon, we will share with both communities "A Prayer for Our Pastorate" to pray daily before/after masses.

Also, we invite you to visit the "sister parish" for daily or Sunday mass, and meet new friends! Please support the spiritual, social and community events of both parishes.

Where do I submit additional questions about the pastorate?

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding pastorate formation and implementation, please contact your respective Pastors, parish staff, pastoral council members, or Pastorate Formation Team members.



Pastorate Formation Team

Fr. Francis Ouma
Dcn. Ken Goedeke
Andrea Bendewald
Joanna Friedenberg
JoAnn Lingner
Alicia Meyer
Emory Plitt

Fr. Willie Franken
Dcn. Ray Van Pelt
LuAnne David
Mark Field
Jack Fuller
Jeff Lawson

PASTORATE FORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Our Pastorate Vision

A loving and vibrant catholic pastorate
of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc,
united as missionary disciples,
to help all encounter our Lord,
Jesus Christ.



St. Patrick Church	St. Joan of Arc Church
615 Congress Avenue	222 S. Law Street
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www.stpatrickhdg.com	www.sjaparish.org
Tel: 410-939-2525	Tel: 410-272-4535

What is a Pastorate?

A pastorate is one or more parishes with a single pastor and a leadership team, sharing programs and worshipping together.

Why did the Archdiocese of Baltimore (AoB) adopt a pastorate model for parishes?

Following the 2015 archdiocese-wide survey, a decision to form pastorates was driven by the shortage of clergy. The rate of priestly retirements in the archdiocese has been greater than the rate of the newly ordained for many years, and many priests have continued to serve well beyond normal retirement age.

Nowadays, pastorate formation is aimed more at helping parishes to collaborate and share resources with one another in order to proclaim the Gospel with joy as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The six Core Mission Priorities of pastorates are:

- Celebration of the Liturgy
- Welcome or Hospitality
- Encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ
- Accompaniment
- Sending forth as missionary disciples
- Mission support of the parish operations

How has the pastorate process been at other locations?

Each unique community and leadership make decisions given what will best serve their community and make sense in their local context. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach, some best practices included listening sessions, pastor pulpit exchanges, shared resources, collaboration of leadership, and prayer.

When will the Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc be formed?

The pastorate will become effective on July 1, 2024. Preceding that date, St. Joan of Arc parish will celebrate Fr. Willie's retirement.

How many families are registered at each parish?

St. Patrick

- FY2022: 1590 parishioners, 663 families
- FY2023: 1701 parishioners, 726 families

St. Joan of Arc

- FY2022: 1062 parishioners, 400 families
- FY2023: 1119 parishioners, 379 families

Will the pastorate merge St. Joan of Arc and St. Patrick's into one entity?

No, canonically (legally) the parishes will remain separate entities. However, through collaborative efforts on levels of liturgy, faith formation, evangelization, sacramental preparation and celebration, ministry and outreach programs, as well as daily governance, the parishes might appear functioning as if they were one entity.

When will we know if Fr. Francis is the new pastor of the Pastorate? What about the new associate pastor?

On May 14th, the AoB Office of the Clergy Personnel announced the appointment of Fr. Francis as Pastor of the Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc. The appointment of the Associate Pastor, Deacon Franz Belleza (soon Fr. Franz Belleza) was announced the following weekend.

Will the deacons serve the entire pastorate, or at separate parishes?

All three deacons will serve at both St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc parishes.

How many children are studying at St. Joan of Arc School?

St. Joan of Arc School is a single track school with 198 enrolled students from Pre-K to 8th grade.

How does this pastorate formation affect St. Joan of Arc School?

St. Joan of Arc School will be under the oversight of the Pastor and the AoB Department of Schools. It will serve the whole pastorate and surrounding communities.

The school's relationship with the Archdiocese of Baltimore and accreditation will remain the same. The school staff will continue to work closely with the Pastor and the staff of both parishes.

How will the pastorate affect Faith Formation and Ministries?

This will be determined at a later date by the Pastor and ministry leaders, in consultation with the families served. The Faith Formation ministries will be energized due to combined personnel and programs.

Will the Mass schedule change?

The intention is to maintain the current Mass schedule. Over time, however, some adjustments might be necessary to support the liturgical calendar and provide adequate priest presence across the Pastorate. An assessment will be done once the Pastorate is formed.

Will finances be merged between the two parishes?

No. Being two separate canonical entities, the finances and contributions of both parishes will remain separate. However, the parishes will have some shared expenses related to personnel and programs.