

SERF



VICARIATE NEWS

JANUARY 2021

SERF — Serving, Evangelizing / Educating, Reaching Out, Witnessing our Faith

DETROIT
ST. JOHN HOSPITAL
ST. MATTHEW

EASTPOINTE
ST. BASIL THE GREAT
ST. VERONICA

GROSSE POINTES
BEAUMONT HOSPITAL
OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
ST. AMBROSE
ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO
ST. PAUL ON THE LAKE

ROSEVILLE
HOLY INNOCENTS/
ST. BARNABAS
ST. JOHN'S DEAF CENTER
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

ST. CLAIR SHORES
OUR LADY OF HOPE
ST. ISAAC JOGUES
ST. JOAN OF ARC
ST. LUCY
ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

SERF Vicariate FAMILIES OF PARISHES



Family #1 (SERF North)

- St. Pio of Pietrelcina - Roseville
- St. Margaret of Scotland - St Clair Shores
- St. Isaac Jogues (PK-8) - St Clair Shores
- Holy Innocents/St Barnabas - Roseville
- Our Lady of Hope/St Germaine (PK-8) - SCS



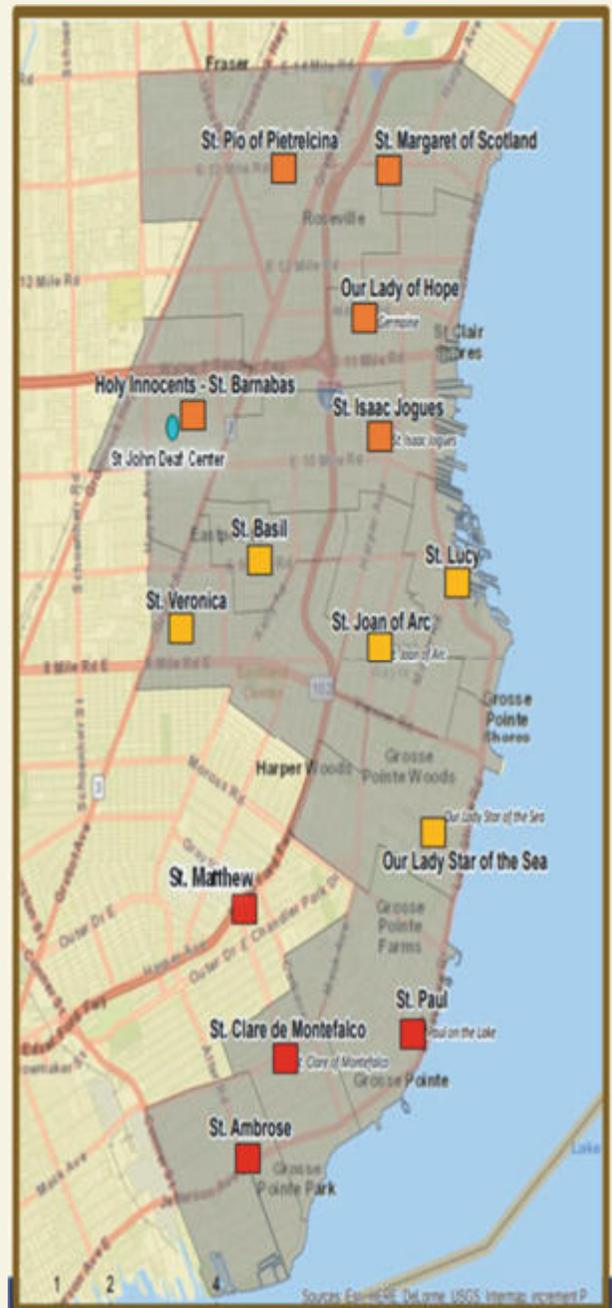
Family #2 (SERF Central)

- St Veronica—Eastpointe
- St. Basil the Great—Eastpointe
- St. Lucy—St. Clair Shores
- St. Joan of Arc (PK-8) - St. Clair Shores
- Our Lady Star of the Sea (PK-8) Grosse Pointe



Family #3 (SERF South)

- St. Matthew—Detroit
- St. Paul on the Lake (PK-8) - Grosse Pointe
- St. Clare of Montefalco (PK-8) - Grosse Pointe
- St. Ambrose—Grosse Pointe



SERF VICARIATE

St. John Hospital
Detroit, MI 48236
313.343.7850

St. Matthew
Detroit, MI 48224
313-884-4470

www.stmatthewdetroit.com

St. Basil the Great
Eastpointe, MI 48021
586.777.5610

www.stbasileastpointe.com

St. Veronica
Eastpointe, MI 48021
586.777.0331

www.stveronica.
weconnect.com

St. John's Deaf Center
Eastpointe, MI 48021
586.439.0146

www.sjdc-oll.org

Our Lady Star of the Sea
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
48236

313.884.5554
www.olsos.org

St. Ambrose
Grosse Pointe Park, MI
48230

313.822.2814
www.stambrosechurch.net

St. Clare of Montefalco
Grosse Pointe Park, MI
48230

313.647.5000
www.stclarem.org

St. Paul on the Lake
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
48236

313.885.8855
www.stpaulonthelake.org

Beaumont Hospital
Grosse Pointe, MI
48230

313.473.1656

COMMUNY'S SENSE

On Pentecost 2020, as our churches were just beginning to re-open following a nearly three-month shutdown due to COVID-19, Archbishop Vigneron announced the next chapter of missionary transformation for the Church of Detroit by calling for Families of Parishes, groups of three or more parishes, to work more intentionally together to further the mission outlined in his 2017 pastoral letter *Unleash the Gospel*.

In the months and years ahead, we will be challenged to embrace new and innovative ways of working together, sharing the resources of priests, religious, and lay leaders across an entire family, calling for greater collaboration as we work together to meet the needs of parishioners and non-parishioners alike. Our working together will demand a greater stewardship of our limited human and material resources as the number of clergy continues to decrease, and the numbers of Catholics actively participating in parishes also declines, compounded by the pandemic.

Throughout the summer, the priests met weekly via Zoom. Since our pastoral leadership overall is seasoned and stable; some initially were angry, and most agreed the timing for this massive initiative was poor and seemed rushed. Conversation focused around a single question: What is the right grouping of parishes to work together in mission to serve the nearly quarter-million households in an area bridging two counties, comprised of 10 municipalities, 8 school districts with an aging population overall, and has already tried to address the issue by closing or merging six of its parishes in the last decade?

With the assistance of diocesan staff and input from both the clergy and a number of lay leaders in each parish, a map assembling the responses was produced, leaning to four families, originally proposed by the Archdiocese.

Some of our parishes could be considered independents, able to more or less stand alone based on age or financial stability. More than half of our parishes swelled into first ring suburbs following World War II. These same communities are now nearly 70 years old and face the issue of changing demographics as well as facilities in need of the improvements or upgrades also necessary in parishioners homes.

Synod 16, still seen as the foundation for *Unleashing the Gospel*, demanded that all parish ministries center on the mission of the new evangelization, and a commitment to Catholic Schools would be expected of every parish in the Archdiocese.

With half of our pastors over the age of 60, and with an eye to the future, as Vicar, I proposed an arrangement of three families to Bishop Fisher in October. The proposal was considered by the Presbyteral Council, and then forwarded to the Archbishop for approval.

(Continued on page 3)

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On December 9th, Archbishop Vigneron formally announced and identified the 51 Families of Parishes that will comprise the Archdiocese in the years to come. Beginning in July 2021, and continuing through 2023, Families of Parishes will work more intentionally than they have previously to further the mission called for by Synod 16 and outlined in *Unleash the Gospel*.

Each parish will retain its own identity, just as siblings share their gifts and have their own unique roles within a family. While this is a new model for us in Detroit, similar models have been successful in other parts of the country and in Canada.

Our SERF Vicariate will consist of three families, simply identified currently as Family #1, #2, and #3, but are practically grouped by our geography as SERF North, SERF Central and SERF South. In addition to St. John's Deaf Center and the presence of two major hospital systems in our area, St. Matthew Parish was added to the SERF South family at the recommendation of the other three pastors in that area. All three SERF families are expected to be part of the second wave of implementation scheduled to begin in July 2022.

The first phase of implementation will call for the naming of a priest moderator of each family by the Archbishop who will work collaboratively and closely with the priests, religious and lay ecclesial ministers within the family. Collaboration, fraternity and cooperation are not strangers to those who currently serve in our 13 parishes. As we move forward that spirit and energy will help each of our three families utilizing the gifts, charisms, and resources of all those involved to focus on forming disciples, family ministry, worship, evangelical charity, and engagement to equip all parish members for the service of the Gospel.

To help prepare us for this transition, individual parishes were asked to complete a survey, provide a descriptive overview of parish culture, and engage in a facilitated discussion with a member of the Missionary Strategic Planning Department identifying the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the parish. Most parishes have begun this preparation, and the results will be shared and made available in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime, continue to pray for an openness to the Holy Spirit, and for those in leadership on every level. Additional information is also available on the website: familiesofparishes.org.

Even in the midst of this unprecedented time, the mission, ministries, and work of the Church urges us to come together in new ways as three families in SERF: Serving, Evangelizing, Educating, Engaging Others, Reaching Out in Faith to Unleash the Gospel!

Let's continue to hold one another in prayer.

Fr. Jim

SERF VICARIATE

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48081
586.771.1750
www.olohscs.org

St. Isaac Jogues

Roseville, MI
48066
586.778.5100
www.saintisaacjogues.com

Holy Innocents/ St. Barnabas

Roseville, MI
48066
586.777.7543
www.hisbparish.us

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Roseville, MI
48066
586.777.9116
www.stpioparish.org

St. Joan of Arc

St. Clair Shores, MI
48080
586.777.3670
www.sjascscs.org

St. Lucy

St. Clair Shores, MI
48080
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www.stlucychurch.com

St. Margaret of Scotland

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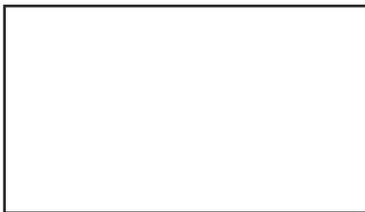
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