



## INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY OF PARISHES QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – PART 1

### **FAMILY OF PARISHES – three parishes becoming ONE FAMILY**

During the upcoming months we will begin the process of transitioning to be part of the “Family of the Parishes” with the Woodstock churches. The activation date of our “family” is expected to be July 2022.

We know many of you have questions about what a Family of Parishes is and what will be happening in the following months.

So today we begin with Part 1 of a series of questions & answers that will explain what you can expect.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The TRANSITION TEAM will be responsible for the detail work looking at all areas of parish life (ministerial and administrative), and together, make the best decisions possible about our future. Once they begin their work, more of your questions will be answered.

### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS -PART 1**

#### **1. WHAT IS A FAMILY OF PARISHES?**

A Family of Parishes is a grouping of parishes lead by one single pastoral team (pastor, associate pastor, deacons, pastoral & youth ministers, etc.) sharing resources to advance the mission of our Church. Our grouping will include Holy Trinity and Holy Cross Churches in Woodstock and Sacred Heart Church in Ingersoll.

#### **2. WHO WILL BE OUR PRIESTS?**

Father Dariusz will remain our Parish Administrator and will be assisted by Father Raj. Our priests will continue to be responsible for all 3 parishes, so

they will regularly rotate between parishes, similar to what has been happening since Feb.

#### **3. WILL OUR MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE?**

**NO.** For the foreseeable future, our schedule will remain the same. Tues & Thurs at 11:30am and Sunday 10:15am and 6pm.

#### **4. DOES THIS MEAN OUR CHURCH WILL CLOSE?**

**NO.** There are no plans to close Sacred Heart Church. This new model is in response to the shortage of priests; to better use resources and talents within the whole family of parishes while encouraging parishioners to share the work of becoming missionary-disciples. Each of the three churches will continue to stay open and work cooperatively as a group.

#### **5. WILL WE STILL BE NAMED SACRED HEART PARISH?**

**YES.** Although we will be one family, with one pastoral team, we will still be separate parishes. The Family of Parishes will have a new name but each parish within that family will keep its name.

The process of becoming a “Family of Parishes” will take several months. This is why we are beginning to explain the basics now. This process is going to be both exciting and challenging. In the coming months, the staffs will begin making ministry connections and sharing ideas. A Transition Team will be formed. As we work through this process, there will be many opportunities for you to provide input and receive information.

*May the Holy Spirit guide us along the way!*

**We will keep these posted on our website**