

The Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Joseph's Church: Two Worship Sites, One Staff, One Office

We are blessed with two vibrant worship sites at the sister parishes of the Church of the Holy Spirit and St. Joseph's Church.

Since 2014, we have shared one pastor and one parochial vicar. Our two priests, along with our senior priest-in-residence welcome the opportunity to serve our faith communities with blessed liturgies in praise of God our Father. We value the distinct identity of each worshipping community along with their distinct reverence in the presence of Christ.

The governance of our parishes is overseen by a Joint Parish Council and a Collaboration Team/Executive Committee of parishioners and staff. We have been a combined Council for several years with the goal of embracing who we are as one Catholic community. Our vision is to celebrate the giftedness of both parishes; to focus on our shared mission as Church; and to work on being ever more inclusive.

In 2021, in an effort to further our collaboration and to be faithful stewards of our resources, we developed one common staff to serve our two parishes with one parish office at the St. Joseph's campus. In addition, a deacon/pastoral associate provides a pastoral presence at Holy Spirit.

The one pastoral and faith formation staff working at St. Joseph's provide essential parish services to the faith communities of Holy Spirit and St. Joseph's: Pastoral Care; Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults; Sacramental Preparation for children, youth and adults; Liturgy preparation; and Social Outreach ministries to the local, regional, and global community.

We have co-administrators and one finance director who share administrative responsibilities and collaborate with each other and the staff on evolving parish needs.

The finance, administrative, and secretarial staff serving both parishes at the St. Joseph's office provide support for essential services: the counting and recording of all donations; bookkeeping, bill payment, payroll and benefits; facility and operations management; administration of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and Sacramental Preparation programs; the weekly writing and layout of one joint bulletin and other communications; Mass Cards in person and online; answering of phone calls for both parishes; scheduling and preparation of funerals, baptisms, and weddings for both parishes; and most importantly, greeting all who visit with gracious hospitality.

To respond to any additional secretarial needs at Holy Spirit, a volunteer secretary is available four mornings per week.

While our parishes remain two independent legal and financial entities, we are well served by a Joint Finance Council and, recently, a Joint Operations team – agendas are developed to address the needs of each community.

As two parishes sharing one pastor, Holy Spirit and St. Joseph's are "clustered." Clusters are encouraged to share resources efficiently, most commonly with one staff at one office. This sharing of resources helps sustain both parishes while acting as good stewards of the generosity of parishioners.