
ST. ATHANASIUS
Jesup

ST. FRANCIS
Barclay

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Gilbertville

ST. JOSEPH
Raymond

March 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

After consultation with the Pastoral Councils and Faith Formation Commissions of our parishes, the pastors of Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph and St. Athanasius & St. Francis have decided to unite our parishes' efforts regarding both adult and youth Faith Formation opportunities.

This will mean the merging of our Faith Formation Commissions into one, single Commission which will be shared between the 4 parishes (each represented with at least one member). This unified Commission will advise our parishes' pastors and staff on matters pertaining to the Youth Faith Formation Program hosted at St. Athanasius, different aspects of Youth Sacramental Preparation, as well as the various Adult Faith Formation opportunities that will be provided to parishioners (for example, Theology on Tap, Bible studies, etc.).

This will also mean the consolidation of our Youth Faith Formation programming under the one program hosted at St. Athanasius. All public-school families from our parishes will be encouraged to support and attend the classes offered to Grades 1-10 on Wednesday evenings throughout the school-year at the site in Jesup.

We understand that combining these efforts will present some inconvenience for a number of families and we understand that change is always difficult. However, we hope that by cooperating between our 4 parishes in these endeavors we will be able to better communicate, coordinate, plan, organize, and promote Faith Formation opportunities for all parishioners.

Already, we have had members of each parish who have participated and contributed to the Youth Faith Formation program offered at St. Athanasius. Already, we know that adult opportunities for Faith Formation in each parish have drawn the attention and involvement of parishioners from each of the other parishes. Already, we collaborate in providing Confirmation preparation for our 10th Grade students, both from the public and our Catholic school. And already, our parishes have experienced a long tradition of working together to provide a Catholic high school education at Don Bosco.

Already we, the parishioners of St. Athanasius, St. Francis, Immaculate Conception, and St. Joseph are involved in many of the same works, organizations, families, and schools. The Catholic life tends to bring people together and encourages us to walk united towards the same goal: He who is our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is therefore our sincere hope that by combining our efforts to promote Faith Formation in our area, each of our families will be benefited and enriched by resources and opportunities that we will be able to provide together.

May the Lord bless our work.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jeffrey Dole, *pastor*
St. Athanasius & St. Francis

Fr. Henry Huber, *pastor*
Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph