



# Kettering

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

The First Anniversary of the Kettering Catholic Community

**JULY 1,  
2022**

**EUCCHARIST**

**CHURCH**

**LEADERSHIP**

**EVANGELIZATION**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**LOVE IN  
ACTION**

Highlights of the path taken to  
become One Family in Christ  
*guided by the 6 principles  
of the Beacons of Light process.*

**JUNE 30, 2023**

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## *A Note from Our Pastor, Father Ed Pratt*

### **Our Kettering Catholic Community...Celebrating One Year Together**

July 1, 2023 was our first anniversary of the implementation of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Beacons of Light initiative, bringing St. Albert, St. Charles and Ascension together as a Family of Parishes. The vision of the plan designed by Archbishop Schnurr and the Beacons teams is for all families of parishes to be "one canonical parish" in five years. This is an ambitious endeavor and reflects the shortage of priests, the decline in Mass attendance, the best use of our physical and human resources, and to celebrate liturgies and sacraments in a reverent and vibrant manner.

### **Let's look at what this means and where we've been so far:**

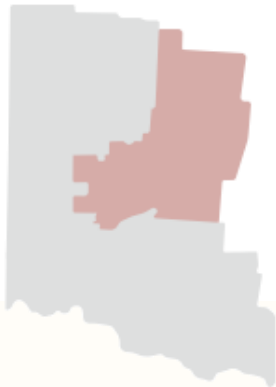
- "One canonical parish" means to become one parish with one pastor, one set of finances and one set of sacramental and ministerial processes. It does not necessarily mean one church facility. It is most likely that our one parish will have three sites. We may see other families of parishes close locations, but this is not in our future at this time, if ever.
- Since July 2022 we have celebrated more than 1400 Masses between our three locations. These include weekend and daily Masses, funerals, weddings, holy days, civic holidays and other special events.
- Events shared by all three parishes have been great celebrations! A combined Easter Vigil, 4th of July and other Masses for civic holidays, formation sessions for children and adults, as well as social events, have been quite successful. Masses and events such as these are our future. We encourage you to participate in our joint ventures.
- I want to be the first (and trust you will join me) in thanking our priests (Fr. Tom, Fr. Chibueze, Fr. Dan and other visiting priests) for their service during a transition year that has been both challenging and rewarding. While recognizing the changes this past year have not been easy for parishioners, it has been a challenge for the priests as well.
- Our staff and deacons have come to know each other and have worked well together on the Beacons' journey. The KCC is blessed with talented, faith-filled and dedicated individuals. Be sure to thank them!
- Keep your prayers coming. Father Tom, Father Chibueze and I have felt the power of your prayers as we move along in this Beacons of Light transition. Truly the Holy Spirit is leading us in the right direction as we work to not be merely "friendly neighbors," but "family."
- Keep an open mind; change is a difficult but necessary part of life. We are all in this together. Remember that Jesus challenged His disciples to accept new ways of being who they were called to be as Church. We are now being called to do the same.
- Finally, I want to thank the parishioners of our three parishes. Change is difficult, and we certainly have seen many changes over the last year. After a few months of adapting to our new reality, Fr. Tom, Fr. Chibueze, the staff and I have appreciated your support (vocal, written and prayerful) and involvement in the liturgies and activities within the KCC family. It has been a privilege to walk this journey with you.

**Let's continue on our journey with God and one another. Peace,**

**Father Ed**

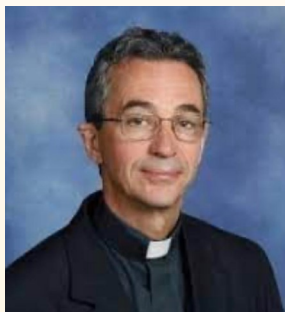
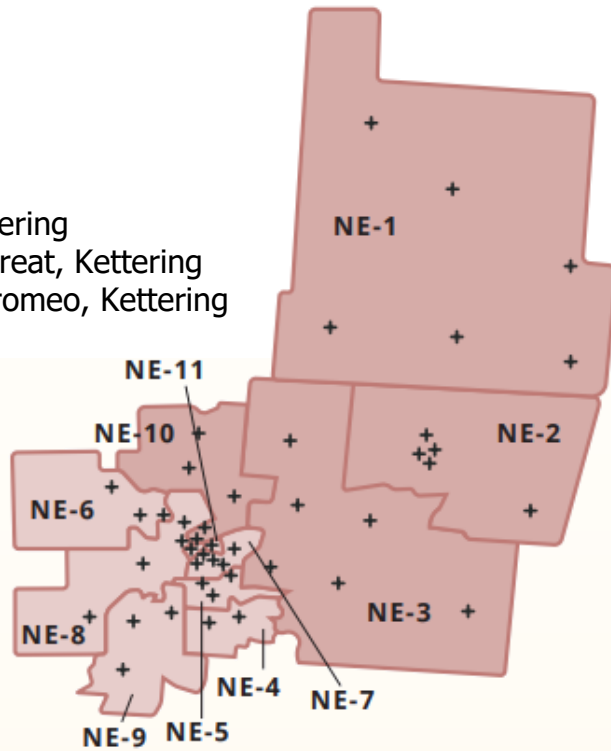
# BEACONS OF LIGHT FAMILIES OF PARISHES

We are the three Catholic parishes in Kettering ~ The Kettering Catholic Community!



## NE-5

Ascension, Kettering  
 St. Albert the Great, Kettering  
 St. Charles Borromeo, Kettering



## Pastor

Father Edward T. Pratt

## Parochial Vicars

Father Thomas A. Nevels  
 Father Chibueze Asiegbulem

Using the 6 Beacons of Light Pastoral Planning Pathway Principles, we reflect on the highlights of the past year.

EUCHARIST	CHURCH	LEADERSHIP	STEWARDSHIP	EVANGELIZATION	LOVE IN ACTION
Mass, Liturgy, Unity, Music, Christ's Presence, Active Participation	Archdiocese, Deaneries, Culture, History, Prayer, Shared Ministries	Pastoral Team, Deacons, Spiritual Formation for Clergy and Staff, Family Parish Council	Gratitude, Hospitality, Giving, Involvement	Faith Formation, School, Vocations, Youth Ministry, Sharing Our Faith	Human Dignity, Charity, Belonging, Justice, Service to Others, Community Involvement



# Pastoral Planning Pathway of... **EUCCHARIST**

The **Sunday Eucharist** is the essential gathering of the parish community each week.



*Father Ed at St. Albert*



*Father Tom at St. Charles*



*Father Chibueze at Ascension*

**Our Pastor and Parochial Vicars celebrate Mass on a rotating schedule at all three locations.**

**SUNDAY MASS**



**CHRIST'S PRESENCE**

**Sacramental celebrations** are true encounters with Jesus Christ present in the Word and Sacrament.

**In the Kettering Catholic Community, July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:**  
**92** Baptized in Christ  
**117** Received the Sacrament of First Communion  
**100** Received the Sacrament of Confirmation  
**12** Couples United in Matrimony



**ARS CELEBRANDI  
& UNITY**



*Ars Celebrandi, the art of celebrating the liturgy is important!*  
**We celebrate liturgies, feasts & seasons with joy.**  
 Some highlights of joy and unity:

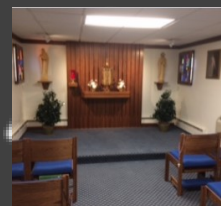
- Thanksgiving and other civic holidays- One combined Mass was held.
- Christmas: Services were scheduled at different times at the three locations.
- Lent and Easter- On Ash Wednesday, in addition to traditional Mass, Ascension & St. Albert both held evening Liturgy of the Word Services.



*Father Ed at Christmas Mass at Ascension*

Exposition / Benediction Services were held after Stations of the Cross. One combined Easter Vigil Mass was held.

**ADORATION**



St. Albert has a 24/7 Perpetual Adoration Chapel.



*Father Ed at the Easter Vigil, held at St. Charles*

**TRAINED  
MINISTERS**



In unity, we have  
 -one common bulletin cover.  
 -shared opportunities promoted on all platforms.

The three Worship Commissions have met and have planned for the sharing of resources for all liturgical seasons.

Deacons and lay liturgical ministers are well-trained and formed for leadership in our communities.





Pastoral Planning Pathway of...  
**CHURCH**



*Family*

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St. Albert + St. Charles + Ascension

**KETTERING**  
Catholic Community

		
<b>St. Albert The Great</b>  3033 Far Hills Ave. Kettering, OH 45429 937-293-1191	<b>St. Charles Borromeo</b>  4500 Ackerman Blvd. Kettering, OH 45429 937-434-6081	<b>Church of the Ascension</b>  2025 Woodman Dr. Kettering, OH 45420 937-253-5171



**CULTURE & HISTORY**

**As we become one Family,** we still honor our individual culture and history. On July 1, 2022, Kettering Catholic Community **banners** were made, representing all three parishes, and displayed at all three locations.



*Celebration of Roy Kellerman at Ascension*

**ARCHDIOCESE / DEANERIES**



*Fr. Brian Phelps*

In communion with the Pope, the Bishop exercises leadership of the local Church. Dioceses are organized into canonical parishes, grouped into Families of Parishes, which are gathered into Deaneries.

Deaneries enhance regional subsidiarity as we strive to form cooperative ministries between Families of Parishes.  
**We are part of the Emmanuel A Deanery, which is led by Fr. Brian Phelps.**



Archbishop Schnurr invited the faithful to join him in a study of **The Mass**, produced by **Word on Fire** and led by Bishop Robert Barron. Our KCC developed study groups to view and discuss the videos.

**LOCAL**

We continue to grow in our faith and understanding, both locally and universally, as members of Christ's Body, the Church. Our Parish councils united and gathered at the first **Family of Parishes Picnic**.



A May Crowning was held during the Family of Parishes Picnic, led by Legion of Mary.

Father Ed at the Family of Parishes Picnic held at St. Albert



**The Disciple Maker Index Survey** was implemented to help parish leaders understand the level of discipleship of our parish family.

**The Kettering Catholic Community** had **746** parishioners who participated in the survey.



Fr. Chibueze at 4th of July Mass at St. Charles



**Civic Holidays** have been assigned to have a Mass celebrated at one location: Memorial Day at St. Albert; Fourth of July at St. Charles; Labor Day at Ascension.

**The Refugee Resettlement Team**

at Ascension assists Catholic Social Services in welcoming refugees who have been driven from their homeland by violence. The *Freedom Tree*, decorated with stars, asks for donations annually for needed household goods for CSS.

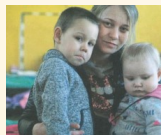
**Twining with Nuestra Senora De La Luz**

activities have created relationships between Ascension and a Parish in Lima, Peru. Sponsored event: *The Fiesta Latina*.



**Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Project**

Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hunger.

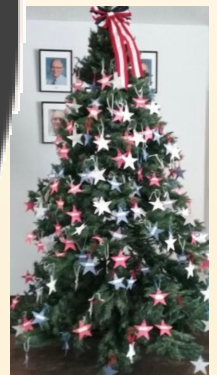


**Caritas Intl.**

along with CRS and St. Charles worked to provide basic needs to Ukrainian refugees.

**UNIVERSAL**

**SUBSIDIARITY**



Freedom Tree at Ascension



Pastoral Planning Pathway of...  
**LEADERSHIP**



*Fr. Tom , Fr. Chibueze and Father Ed*

Our Family is led by our **pastor, Father Ed Pratt, along with our parochial vicars, Father Tom Nevels and Father Chibueze Asiegbulem.**

We are thankful for our retired priests who assist in our liturgies. Our deacons and lay staff do a great job in providing leadership when needed.



*Retired Priest  
Fr. Dan Meyer  
at St. Albert*

**Our Deacons**

Brian Campos, Jesse Fanning, Jeff Hall, Vic Hildebrand, Dan Kraus, Tom Sipniewski, Dick Strominger, Dave Zink

**PASTOR /  
DEACONS**



Posters were made and displayed at all three locations representing our wonderful priests and deacons.

**UNIFIED /  
FORMATION**



As we move forward with the goal of one **Family Parish Council**, all three councils met for a shared informational meeting. Finance Council is also sharing information and is on the path to becoming united.





**LEADERSHIP**

In following the parameters set forth by Beacons of Light, a **Leadership Team** has been formed to assist in the process of becoming one canonical parish. In addition to the priests, the team includes:

- Tom Hutchinson**, Interim Director of Administration
- Chris Kreger**, Interim Director of Worship
- Joe Ollier**, Interim Director of Evangelization
- Cathy Magness**, Beacons Pathway Leader



Tom Hutchinson



Chris Kreger

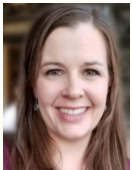


Joe Ollier



Cathy Magness

**New Staff**



Gabrielle Ambrosius,  
*St. Albert School Principal*



Sarah Archuletta,  
*Kettering Catholic Community Adult Faith Formation*



Ann McManus,  
*St. Albert Bookkeeper*



Kelly Summers,  
*Kettering Catholic Community Youth Ministry*



Margaret Wager,  
*Ascension Pastoral Associate*



Julie Weitz,  
*Ascension Communications*



Joe Whatley,  
*St. Albert Music Director*



As part of shared leadership, staff with similar roles within the three parishes meet regularly as part of the new **"Conveners"** groups.

In our bulletins, staff members share a **"Staff Reflection"** on a rotating basis in an effort to have our entire community know each staff member.

**We welcome new staff,** and staff taking on new roles.

To all the staff that have retired or moved on, we thank you for your service to our family.

**WELL BEING OF CLERGY**



**New Roles**



Kristi Gaston,  
*St. Albert Office Manager*



Stephanie Klein,  
*Ascension Assistant Director of Music & Worship*



Tara Schumaker,  
*St. Albert & Ascension Coordinator of Religious Education*

**CO-RESPONSIBILITY**





Pastoral Planning Pathway of...

# STEWARDSHIP

The Kettering Catholic Community is composed of three welcoming parishes, filled with love and joy. We regularly invite and engage people of all ages and all stages of life to be involved in ministry, service, giving, and community events. We would not be able the opportunity for involvement if it were not for our volunteers taking leadership roles to implement events and activities.

We give gratitude and thankfulness for our Parish Volunteers.

- **Parish and School Commissions and Committees**  
Parish Council, Worship Commission, Education Commission, PTO, Finance Council, Athletic Association, Social Action Committee, Welcome Committee, Respect Life Committee, and others!

- **Our Ministries and Groups**  
Chuck Wagon, Communion to the Homebound, Diakonia, Food Collections, Giving Tree, Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary, Legion of Mary, Leisure Club, Meals for the Homeless, Monthly Food Collection, Mom's Group, Men's Fellowships, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry, Pro-Life, Prayer Shawl, Prayer Groups, Refugee Resettlement, Seniors' Day Out, St. Vincent de Paul, Tree of Thanksgiving, Twinning, Women's Guild, and many more!

- **Volunteers of Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry**

**INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP**



**Care for the Sick and Dying**  
Bereavement Ministry, Communion to the Homebound, Mass of Remembrance, Hospital / Nursing Home visits.

**GRATITUDE & GIVING**

The Kettering Catholic Community has **Over 100** Groups and Ministries



**INVITATION & ENGAGEMENT**

Along with being faith-filled, we are also social beings. When we come together, we welcome all in God's name. Here are some highlights of our social gatherings:

- **School (Athletics & PTO)**  
Fish Fry, Fish N Chips, PTO events, CYO / Pee Wee Sports
- **Community Building**  
Picnics, Block Parties, Oktoberfest, Bunco, Mah Jongg, Art & Craft Shows, Bazaars, Coffee & Donuts Fellowship, Euchre Parties, Chili Cook-offs

- **Knights of Columbus / Ladies Auxiliary**  
Seminars, Cookouts, Pancake Breakfast, Breakfast with Santa, Breakfast with St. Nick
- **Senior focused**  
Seniors' Day Out, Leisure Club & Chuck Wagon
- **Pro-Life focused**  
Baby Jesus Shower, Bottles for Babies, Flower Sales, 40 Days for Life



**HOSPITALITY**



We welcome all in God's name. **All three parishes have programs to welcome new parishioners.**

**WELCOMING**



In the past year, the **Kettering Catholic Community** has welcomed **over 100** new families



# Pastoral Planning Pathway of... **EVANGELIZATION**

**Students of our three Schools are immersed in faith formation experiences throughout the year, with Religious Education class in the curriculum.** Our Sunday RE programs strive to grow students to become missionary disciples and be His love in this world.



**The Kettering Catholic Community educated**  
**923** School students  
**328** RE students  
(2022—23 school year)

**SCHOOL &  
RELIGIOUS ED**



**Formation for Young Adults**  
We also have an active Young Adult Ministry, for ages 18 thru 29.

**MISSIONARY  
DISCIPLESHIP**

**Catapult Summer School**  
All three parishes partnered for a summer learning program for grades K-4.



**Our active Youth Ministry program** continues to combine efforts for youth to grow in faith with enrichment studies like Deep Dive, DOCK, Exult, retreats, mission trips, and service.

**ADULT FORMATION**



We have **faith enrichment programs** for just about everyone! These opportunities are open to all KCC members. Highlights are:

**Bible Studies / Faith Groups**

Men's / Women's Fellowship, Prayer Groups, Bible Studies, Book Studies, SALSA, Jesus in July, MOMs Group.

**Honoring our Blessed Mother**

Walking Rosary, Legion of Mary, Schoenstatt, Queenship of Mary.

**Seminars / Special Retreats**

Lay Spirituality, Big Summer Book Read, Everyone Suffers, Mary's Way- *Women Answering Yes*, Advent & Lenten studies.

**OCIA**

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

**The Kettering Catholic Community** has welcomed **13 people** into our Family through Baptism, Reception, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

The Archdiocesan Vocations Prayer is prayed regularly at weekend Masses.

**VOCATIONS**

**FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**



Joe Ollier (with guest Cathy Magness) provides faith guidance videos on *Facebook Live* three times a week.





Pastoral Planning Pathway of...  
**LOVE IN ACTION**

The Kettering Catholic Community has made serving others a way of life. We do our best to provide for others as God's provides for us.

**Monthly Food Collections** for local food pantries: CSSMV Food Pantry, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry, Feeding Friends.

**Monthly Meals** provides meals for St. Vincent de Paul Hotel and Miami Valley Meals.



**Assistance to our local community**  
St. Vincent de Paul & Neighbor Outreach provide life-sustaining goods and services to those struggling in our community.

The Diakonia Fund provides support for nonprofit organizations in our area, like Good Shepherd, and St. Vincent de Paul Shelters.



**This past fiscal year, the Kettering Catholic Community has provided**

- Over 3000** Meals served to St. Vincent Shelters
- Over 500** Families that have been helped by St. Vincent de Paul
- Over 900** Families that have been helped by the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Pantry
- Over 200** Families that have been helped by Neighbor Outreach

**Giving Trees & Tree of Thanksgiving**  
All three parishes provide gift cards for food and gifts during the holidays for our less-fortunate youth, neighbors, & seniors in our local area.



**JUSTICE**



**The KCC Youth Ministry: Serving Others:**

- Participated in the **Kindness Campaign**, with CSS & International Peace Museum, where our youth were paired with refugees for service and fellowship
- **Summer of Service** such as park cleanups & yard work
- **Feeding the Hungry:**
  - prepared & served the Thrive Dinner at Fairhaven
  - packed 100 lunches for SVDP; prepared casseroles
  - assisted St. Albert's Garden Guild Adopt-a-Bed
- Participated in making blankets for **Dayton Children's Hospital**
- **Souper Bowl of Caring** raised funds to donate to a local charity



**Social Action Committee**

The Matthew 25 Project, implemented by the St. Charles Social Action Committee, welcomed all parishes to collect pill bottles for medical clinics in primitive areas.

**Pro-Life Activities**

All three parishes have active Pro-Life Committees, providing services and funds to Elizabeth New Life Center and Dayton Right to Life.

**Blood Drives**

All three parishes participate in the gift of life: Parish Blood Drives.

**Garden Guild**

The Farmers' Market at St. Albert the Great sells freshly grown vegetables, breads and jams, with all the proceeds to benefit St. Vincent de Paul.

**Faith & Light**

St. Charles has a monthly group for adults with disabilities.

**All Are Welcome, All Belong**

St. Albert held the event to promote inclusiveness.

**Belonging Taskforce Retreat**

St. Albert held a NET Retreat for persons with disabilities (young adults).

**PRESENCE & SOLIDARITY**

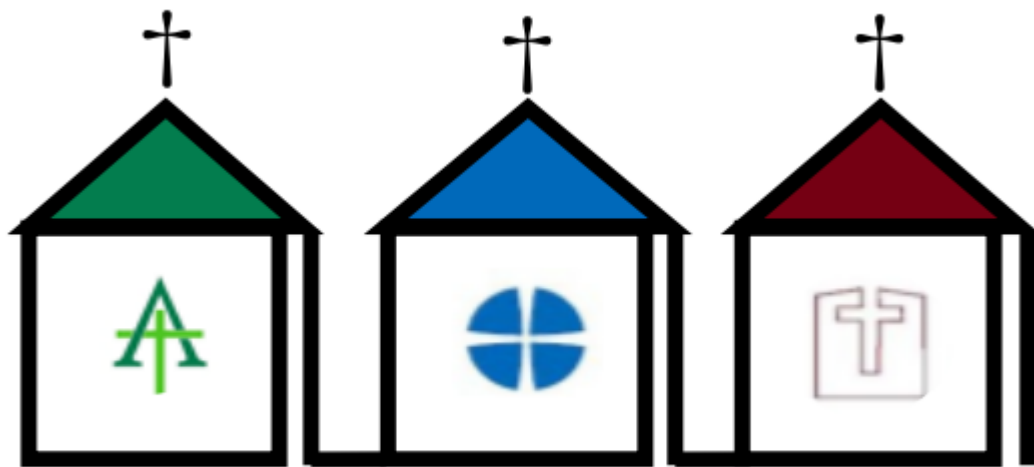


*Faith & Light at St. Charles*

**BELONGING**



*Belonging Taskforce at St. Albert*



**KETTERING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

One Family in Christ