



## New Website and Monthly e-Newsletter

We have established a website to which you may direct your parishioners for information on *Beacons of Light*. Please share this link in your emails, website, and parish bulletin. <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons>

We plan to send the *Beacons of Light* e-newsletter mid-month each month. You are automatically enrolled for the newsletter and do not need to register to receive it. Additional updates for priests, deacons, and lay leaders will be emailed to you with pertinent information or when action is needed.

## Priests Resource Page – Your Password

We have password-protected the [priests resource page linked here](#). **Your password is Beacons2021**. The communication and resources located on this page will not be found on other Beacons of Light web pages. The page has been established to provide you with information pertinent to priests. The documents on this page may be shared with parish staff and Pastoral Councils as appropriate. Please note that the guiding principles for *Beacons of Light* are available on this page.

## Announcing Families of Parishes

As you are aware, the goal of *Beacons of Light* is to form groupings of parishes that will come together as one faith community. While some have suggested that “pastoral region” continue to be used, our intent is for parishes to collaborate together in new ways in the future. After consultation and prayerful consideration, the decision has been made to call these groupings “Families of Parishes”. This expression originated in the Diocese of London, Ontario and has been adopted by the Archdiocese of Detroit. We will continue to develop and articulate the vision of Families of Parishes including the theological and ecclesiological foundations for the entire *Beacons of Light* process.

## Action Items

**Prayer and Reflection:** Each month, we will share a resource for prayer and reflection for use in parish meetings, small faith groups, and/or personal prayer. We encourage you to use this with your parish staff and pastoral council and hope that you will share it with coordinators of parish groups. Each reflection will use one of the Sunday gospels for the month and a brief excerpt from a guiding document such as *Radiate Christ* and the Vatican Instruction on the pastoral conversion of the parish. May we be united in prayer as we work together to build parishes that are beacons of light. [The March prayer and reflection is found here.](#)

**Please Share:** If you have not already done so, please share the one-page Beacons of Light overview document. [Link here to download the file.](#)

**Identify Beacons Champions:** Many of you have asked what you can be doing right now to prepare your people for Beacons of Light. One of the best things you can do is to begin to inform your parishioners about the process, build interest, understanding, and the readiness to participate when the time comes. Think about the people you know, current or former pastoral or finance council members or other leaders, who can positively communicate and contribute to *Beacons of Light* in the future. Speak with these potential “Beacons Champions” and ask for their participation and support in the coming months.

## Beacons of Light Update

**Strategic Planning:** Thanks to the leadership of our archdiocesan deans and the cooperation of all pastors and school principals, data gathering has been accomplished and our consultants at PartnersEdge are now analyzing our data. We will keep you abreast of developments in our strategic planning as they occur.

**Pastoral Planning:** Archbishop Schnurr has affirmed six principles that will be the foundation for the pastoral planning process. These principles were recommended to Archbishop by the Beacons of Light Oversight Group. [The principles with brief descriptive statements are linked here.](#)

Next month, we will be seeking your input and feedback regarding the parameters—the expectations that all parish groupings will address—in the planning process.