

**FOLLOW THE STAR: CHRISTMAS AT ST. CHARLES** Join your family and friends for the first ever “Follow the Star: Christmas at St. Charles,” a celebration in preparation for the feast of Christmas. The residents of St. Charles Senior Living Center are opening their doors to the community from 12:30 to 7pm Dec. 10 with events for all ages. · Cookies and Cocoa with St. Nicholas from 1:30 to 2:30pm · Hayrides around the property from 1:30 to 4pm and 5:30 to 7pm · Mass at 4:30pm in Assumption Chapel followed by a glowing procession to the live nativity. · Stations of the Nativity display depicting 14 moments surrounding the birth of Jesus from the Annunciation to the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. · Electric train display with our magical conductor Brother Tim Cahill. · Festival of Trees presented by local parish youth groups and religious education programs. Visitors can vote for their favorite tree. Winning group will receive prize money to be used for their ministry. · Beautiful decorations created for St. Charles by a host of decorating angels. St. Charles Center is located at 2860 U.S. Route 127 in Carthagena, Ohio. Watch our Facebook page for more information. Go to Follow the Star: Christmas at St. Charles.

**Statue of Mary** from the Grotto located by the ramp of the church is missing or stolen. We are taking up a collection to replace her. Anyone willing to donate are asked to place your donation in an envelope marked “Mary” and place in the collection basket. Any extra money will go to replace the statue of St Teresa by the ramp.

**2023 Catholic Calendars** are available in the lobby. Thank you to Alspach-Gearhart, Ketchum-Ripley Funeral Home for the donation.

**Notes from maintenance committee:** few items have been updated or replaced. Lighting above the garage, new floor mats in the lobby, tanks and valves for the boiler have been replaced. Under cabinet lighting was added in the priest sacristy. Outdoor carpet by the ramp has been removed, (this maybe replaced in the future), spouting guards for downspouts replaced.

Getting estimates to possibly replace the glass double doors of the church, they are not energy efficient, lately having issues with the doors not being closed correctly which could have some safety issues.

Fr John has a few suggestions on how to make the altar area more spacious. The committee is looking into some of these suggestions, more research is needed before these changes are made.

Pastor Council met to discuss the following: We are looking for 2 people per parish for *planning team* and *family council*

**Guide to Family Leadership Groups** “Pastors, in collaboration with parochial vicars, deacons and lay ministers, according to their proper roles and charisms, share responsibility for pastoral leadership. The spiritual, physical and mental health and ongoing support of ordained and lay leaders is vital for Families of Parishes.” - Leadership Principle, Beacons of Light

Many leadership groups are envisioned in Beacons of Light. Each has a distinct role and responsibilities. Here is a brief guide to Family Leadership Groups:

**The Beacons Pathway Planning Team:** The pastor or a staff liaison meet with this team at least monthly during Phase 1

- Is a group of parish leaders (staff and parishioners) preferably representative of the entire Family, led by the pastor or his delegate to serve during Phase 1; their role will be refined at the end of Phase 1 to focus on the Church pathway during Phases 2-5
- • Assists the pastor in the absence of a fully unified staff, Family Leadership Team, and pastoral council with planning activities for the Family, especially the Church pathway
- • Provides consultation for the pastor on executing other pathways of Phase 1 (especially when relevant consultative groups or staff are not in place)
- • Serves as a champion for the pastoral planning process
- • Leads efforts and initiatives to bring the Family together, building up the faith community
- • Invites parishioners into Family engagement activities especially in Phase 1

**The Unified Family Pastoral Council:** The pastor meets with this group monthly. Sub-committees or working groups may have additional meetings at the pastor’s discretion, with the pastor or his delegate

- Is the vehicle to ensure that parishioners have a voice in how the Family of Parishes serves them and leads them to missionary discipleship.
- • It is the place where the pastor can share his concerns, discuss difficult pastoral issues, test new ideas and initiatives for the Family, and get practical advice from a group of parishioners who live in and represent the larger and wider faith community.
- • Through the Family Council, the pastor and a group of parish leaders, united in a common purpose and a common set of values, engage in dialogue and search for wisdom to identify that which is best for the Family of Parishes.
- • Ideal candidates for the Family Council are parishioners who are interested in advocating for the overall vitality of the entire Family, not just one particular parish within the Family.
- • Provides a forum for all ideas to be heard. It is through active listening and through the exchange of ideas that diverse views of the wider faith community become refined to reflect the desired future of the Family of Parishes