

The Mission of the “Transition Team” is to preserve the integrity, autonomy, and traditions of each of the three Catholic Parishes in Ashtabula, while working to ensure that the faithful of the three parishes can be served by two priests, the Tri-parish staff, and the numerous lay ministers.

Over the next few weeks we will be addressing the challenges that lie ahead. In our first meeting we began to prioritize the tasks. Most highly noted were:

- Providing realistic daily, weekend, and holiday Mass schedules for the faithful,
- A clear, simple procedure for contacting a priest in the event of a pastoral emergency (death, illness, etc.)

The Team’s primary goal will always be to communicate its progress to the parishioners in a timely fashion. These “progress reports” will be published in the parish bulletins, print media, websites, and/or from the pulpit.

Each parishioner’s input is welcome, essential, and greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below or contact a member of the team to share with us your thoughts and ideas for the future of the Ashtabula Tri-parish community.

Please return this form in the collection basket at Mass. These will be referred to the Transition Team. You may also contact a member of the team directly; the Team roster is on the back of this page. The Team’s next meeting is August 8.

Cut here and return in your August 5th collection basket.

What is your greatest hope about this Transition?

What is your greatest concern about this Transition?

What is your greatest fear about this Transition?

What can the Transition Team do to make this process easier for you and your family?

(Optional) Name: _____ Parish: _____

ASHTABULA TRI-PARISH TRANSITION TEAM ROSTER

Tri-Parish Staff

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Parish Representatives

St. Joseph

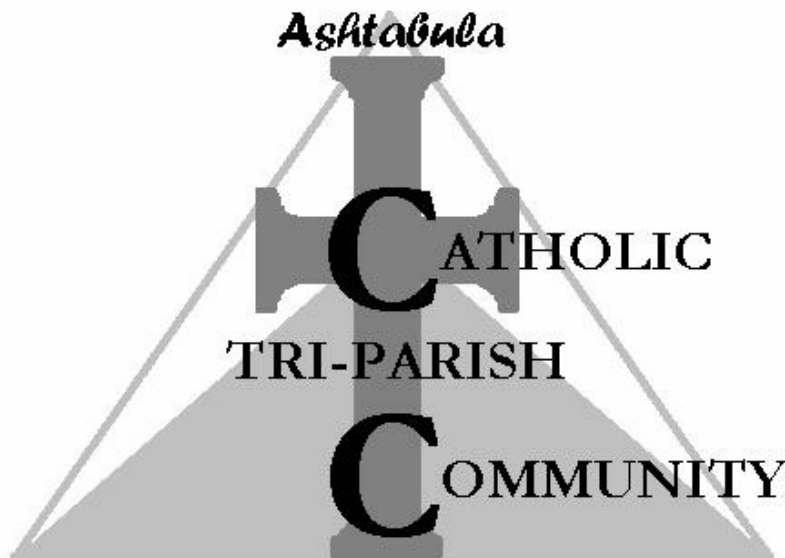
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Mother of Sorrows

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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

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Diocese of Youngstown Priest statistics

Number of parishes = 115 (plus 2 mission parishes)

Number of priests in active ministry = 97

Number of priests under the age of 50 = 25

Median age of priests in our diocese = 64

While it's OK to ask the Bishop "Why can't he send us a third priest?" the question to also ask is "when is the last time our three parishes fostered a vocation to the priesthood?" Who was the last priest ordained for our diocese from any of our three parishes?