

November 23, 2025

Dear Parishioners of the Bread of Life Family of Parishes,

I am writing to update you on our Family of Parishes. At a recent meeting with the archdiocesan Beacons of Light (BoL) representatives and the parish leaders' meeting with Archbishop Robert Casey, one of the questions that was discussed was if each family of parishes is on track to be one canonical entity (with multiple campuses/churches) by July 2027. This question has been on the forefront, as you already know, because of changes in demographics: the fewer number of priests, decline in the number of parishioners in the pews, the cost of the upkeep of huge buildings, and some of which already face critical deferred maintenance issues. The rationale behind BoL is to unite communities to do things more effectively together rather than struggle with the same things as separate communities. The goal is to move from maintenance to mission.

In assessing the phase of the Bread of Life Family of parishes with the parish leaders (Family of Parishes Pastoral Council and the BoL Pathway Team), it has been determined that we are on track even though many challenges lie ahead.

For example, deferred maintenance in some of our structures calls for huge investments. Secondly, we do not know the number of priests we will have in our family of parishes after July 2026. Thirdly, the attendance at some of our Masses is much below the desired numbers in light of the seating capacity.

In this context, here is an update of what is going on in the Bread of Life/Pan de Vida family of parishes:

- The good news is that participation at Mass at each of the parishes has either remained stable or increased. This is indeed a positive development.
- We are developing a Vision Statement for the Bread of Life Family of Parishes in discussion with the Bread of Life Pastoral Council. It will be published before the end of the year.
- We are focusing on the concept of "Catholic Presence" to ensure that each community is a viable Catholic presence in its respective neighborhood.
- We are evaluating adequate staffing for the Bread of Life Family of Parishes.
- We are ensuring that each of our parishes have at least one Mass each weekend whether in English or in Spanish.
- We are preparing for the possibility of having less than three priests in the Bread of Life Family of Parishes.
- We are in discussion with Parish leaders about further consolidating the Mass schedule in the future so that the least attended Masses can give way for larger attendance at convenient times throughout the weekend within the Bread of Life Family of Parishes. Especially in light of the shortage of priests, combining some of these Masses will not only help us to address that issue but also realize our strengths and vitality together.
- We are ensuring that each parish is financially viable to maintain an annual budget and address routine and deferred maintenance projects.
- There are active capital campaigns in two of our parishes for addressing structural repairs and a major parking lot development taking place in one of our parishes.

As we enter the Advent Season, we pray that Jesus Christ and the redemption he brought the world will be our focus in this holy season. May we heed the call to "Prepare the way of the Lord!" (Mk 1:3). Let us indeed prepare the way.

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