

Good Shepherd and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception
Parish Pastoral Council Update.

On September 29th, the Pastoral Parish Councils of Good Shepherd and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception agreed to form one council. We are the first linked parishes in our Diocese to do so. There are no Diocesan guidelines for such a project, so it really is a work in progress. We held our first meeting October 24th, and the group was eager to begin working toward fulfilling the Pastoral goals set by each parish. It is important to remember even though we have one council, we will maintain each parish's individual identity.

- Some of the common goals in each parish's pastoral plan are lifelong faith formation and improving communication. These were common concerns parishioners voiced in the surveys completed during the formation of the pastoral plans. The council is working on ideas to make faith formation more attractive to the young and old alike. As plans are developed, more information will follow.*
- To improve communication, the bulletins from each parish will be redesigned. A tri-fold pamphlet is being developed that will accommodate information from both parishes. This will reduce cost and eliminate duplication.*
- The website from Immaculate Conception will be updated to mirror Good Shepherd's which is more user friendly and easier to navigate.*
- Work is also underway to develop a calendar of events for each parish. It will be made available in the bulletin and on the websites. This will keep parishioners up to date on the activities in each parish.*
- Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the former members of each council who chose to pursue other ministries in the parish. It was their hard work and dedication that created the pastoral plans and made the transition to a combined council possible.*
- The new council members are as follows: Gene DellaCroce, Donna Good, Kelly Kostanesky (Secretary), Matt Krone, T.J.Puzzetti, Kaitlyn Puzzetti (Youth Representative), Jason Turri, Katie Ventra, and Dave Williams (Vice-Chairman).*

Jim Eisenhart, Council Chairman