## Lucy Bruns, Parish Business Manager St. John

Dear Parishioners.

We are glad to announce and welcome Lucy Bruns as our new part time Parish Business Manager for St. John Parish. We received four applications for the position, all from outside the parish. An interview team consisting of Alan Wolters, chair of the St. John Finance Committee, Sharon Kremer, Marion Catholic Community staff member, Leslie Tyler NW8 Business Manager and myself as pastor interviewed applicants. Our interview team consensus was that Lucy was our best candidate, with the background skills and experience to fulfill the responsibilities of the St. John Business Manager position and would be a good addition to the Marion Cluster office and NW8 family of parishes staff. We offered the position to Lucy and she accepted.

Lucy has given her current employer notice, but also wants to assist them until they can find a replacement. Lucy will begin the first week of July working limited hours in the Marion Catholic Community office at St. Rose. Paul Gagel and Joan Heitkamp along with Leslie and other staff will help familiarize Lucy with the business manager position and all the facets of working within St. John Parish, the Marion Catholic Community and the NW8 family of parishes.

Lucy was born and raised in the Marion Community and with her family are members of St. Nicholas, Osgood. She has an Associate of Applied Business degree in accounting from Wright State Lake Campus, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with a major in accounting from the University of Dayton, and a Master of Business Administration also from the University of Dayton. Since her retirement from Wright State University in 2016 after more than 29 years of service, she has spent time working at the Crown Equipment Corporation and the St. Henry Bank. Most recently, Lucy was the Office Support Specialist for the Garst Museum in Greenville.

While it is new for St. John Parish to have a business manager from outside the parish, it is not uncommon and there are advantages and disadvantages. The key is having defined expectations as we do with a job description and a clear vision going forward.

The Beacons of Light process and our implementation of the NW8 family of parishes is a work in progress. The Archdiocese has given us guiding principles, vision points and parameters to follow, but there is also room within those markers to find and develop our unique expression as the NW8 Family of Parishes. Our NW8 Vision Leadership team is currently working with these markers as we develop a visioning process that will begin early September.

There is an expectation that NW8 will be one unified parish by July 1, 2027, but that does not mean individual parishes are going to lose their input nor their uniqueness. As Archbishop Schnurr wrote in his recent bulletin letter on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 11<sup>th</sup>, "We ask our Lord in a special way that our celebrations of the Eucharist truly foster unity, not only in our Families of Parishes, but across our entire archdiocese. This unity – not uniformity – is a cornerstone to building up the Catholic Church in these nineteen counties of western and southwestern Ohio."

Bulletin note July 1-2, 2023 – Lucy Bruns, Parish Business Manager St. John

There is an expectation that our NW8 unified parish will include a comingling of parish funds in the future, but in a way that accounts for each parish as a separate entity. Each parish will still retain its savings and be responsible for income (collection) and expenses (operations, ministry and maintenance) that enables each parish to be financially solvent.

There are several positions and organizations within NW8 to assure that each parish is being fiscally responsible to our mission as church and to the parishioners. As Pastor, I have overall responsibility for all facets of our NW8 family of parishes. Leslie Tyler as NW8 Business Manager will assist with the financial matters, being a helpful resource person to Lucy and each of our parish business managers and accountants who oversee the financial matters of each of our parishes. We are looking to our local Parish Finance Councils and representatives to assure the local input and guidance of each parish. Some of our NW8 Finance Councils have not been very active so we are working with them to assure that we have local Parish Finance Councils with parishioners who are experienced in finance, engaged in the work of the council and committed to helping each parish be financially solvent.

Please join us in welcoming Lucy and supporting her efforts, along with all our NW8 finance staff, working to ensure the financial resources necessary to serve the mission of our church.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.PP.S., Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I was immediately drawn to the position of Parish Business Manager for St. John Parish as soon as I saw it listed in the church bulletin. I have been involved in my home parish of St. Nicholas, Osgood since returning back in the area in 2013 and have enjoyed the many opportunities for parish ministry. Working with the Catholic community is something I think will be very rewarding, professionally and personally, for me. I realize that Paul Gagel has left some big shoes to fill, but I also trust that my past fund accounting experience will serve well in this new position. I look forward to interacting with all members of the parish.

I am married to my husband Jim, who is engaged in farming, and we have two daughters. Clarissa is a junior at The Ohio State University and Columbus State University while Sydney just graduated from Marion Local High School and will be attending the University of Cincinnati this fall.

In my free time I enjoy being outdoors with my cats and mowing grass, and inside I enjoy playing solitaire and Sudoku on my iPad, as well as keeping up with family and friends via Facebook.

I look forward to this new opportunity, working with the other staff members and interacting with all members of the parish.

Sincerely, Lucy Bruns