

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

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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 11th, “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.”

