



Dear Friends in the Lord,

It is said that change is never easy, but as Cardinal John Henry Newman wrote, "To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often." In other words, being alive necessitates change as we journey through the times and seasons of our lives. The ending of present things opens up the possibility of things to come. In that sense we are always in a period of transition.

We are now transitioning into summer with the end of another academic school year while the Church transitions to the period of Ordinary Time. Fr. Matthew is transitioning to a new assignment as part of the faculty of Saint Joseph College Seminary and we as a parish are also in a time of transition as we become a one-priest parish. It is important to be grateful for the goodness we have known while being open to new possibilities. The new reality for me is that my pastoral responsibilities will double. That includes Sunday and weekday Masses, Funerals, Weddings, Confessions, Hospital calls and Anointing of the Sick.

In order for me to make the weekly schedule more manageable, I have made the pastoral decision to suspend the Wednesday daily Mass beginning July 11th. Our deacons have generously agreed to preside over a communion service at 8:00 AM on Wednesdays. I will ask that we try not to schedule a funeral Mass on a Wednesday to preserve that day as a day of rest. The exception would be a holy day of obligation. The rest of the Mass schedule will remain the same for now. We will have some weekend assistance from Fr. Ken Kiepura and Fr. Ed Pelrine. I know you always make them feel welcome. I ask for your continued prayers during this time of transition.

Let us also pray for the teens and adult chaperones, including Fr. Matthew and our youth minister, Grant Bright, as they participate in the Catholic Heart Work Camp summer mission trip. They will travel to Knoxville, Tennessee, where they will work with a number of the local service agencies to provide assistance to the poor and those in need. We send them forth, praying that they will grow in their faith and appreciation for the many blessings God has given them.

Finally, we welcome to St. Mary Vinny Jimenez, a third year seminarian studying at Mundelein Seminary. Vinney is completing his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at Condell Hospital this summer. He will be living at the St. Mary priest residence through the summer months.

Let us pray for one another,
Fr. Jerry Jacob