



Solemnity of Pentecost 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This weekend the Church throughout the world celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost, and so commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, the foundation of the Church, and the beginning of her mission to all nations and peoples.

The mystery of Pentecost exhorts us to prayer and commitment to mission. The Holy Spirit inspires faith, hope, and charity in the hearts of the faithful, and ennobles the numerous and varied ways of transmitting the Christian message according to the culture and customs of all times and places. While giving us access to communion with God in prayer, the Holy Spirit also prompts us towards service of our neighbor by encountering him, by reconciliation, by witness, by a desire for justice and peace, by renewal of outlook, by social progress, and missionary commitment.

Almost two years ago, we as an Archdiocese embarked upon a strategic pastoral planning process, *All Things New*. We prayed to the Holy Spirit for guidance, and we committed ourselves to you the faithful of this Archdiocese. An extensive process of listening was undertaken in all the parishes. Thereafter, I consulted the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council regarding every parish under consideration. I then spent time in further prayer, study, and discernment, after which I reached the following decision regarding St. Raphael the Archangel parish.

Your parish will remain unchanged regarding its present structure. In order to best provide for the needs of our local Church, I have decided to appoint your pastor, the Reverend John Mayo, as Spiritual Director at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and with residence at the seminary and with continued service at the Catholic Renewal Center, effective August 1. May I kindly ask that you express your gratitude to your pastor for his dedicated service in your parish.

Your new pastor will be the Reverend Thomas Molini. Because of my responsibility to provide pastoral care for our entire Archdiocese through the equitable distribution of priests, your new pastor, the Reverend Thomas Molini, is also appointed pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel parish. With continued service as associate pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, the Reverend Mark Madden is also appointed as associate pastor to your parish. The Reverend Joseph Simon, who is retired, and the Reverend Anthony Ritter, Associate Director of the Archdiocesan Vocation Office, will have residence at St. Gabriel Parish. Though your parish structure remains unchanged, I ask that you appreciate the need for Mass schedules and other aspects of parish life to be adjusted for your priests to fulfill their responsibilities to both parishes. Please welcome them warmly.

While there is no change to the structure of your parish, we are all called to rededicate ourselves to new modes of evangelization and social outreach. I ask that you join me in praying for those among the faithful of the Archdiocese who will also be hearing other challenging news this weekend regarding their parish.

Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will draw us all closer together as we commit ourselves to following the Lord Jesus and spreading His message by the witness of our lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis