

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

Thank You, Deacon Jerry

This weekend, we as a parish community recognize, honor, and thank a true servant of the Lord, Deacon Jerry Geiser.

Deacon Jerry was born on August 22, 1942 here in St. Louis. He attended Catholic Grade School at St. Anthony's and is an alumnus of St. Mary's High School.

On October 17, 1964, Deacon Jerry married his wife of over 51 years, Nancy (Lamkiewicz) Geiser. They had three children, Jeanie, Laura, and Tom.

In his professional life, Deacon Jerry worked at National Food Store for 30 years from 1965-1995 and then moved to Kutis Funeral Home, retiring from there in 2009.

Deacon Jerry joined St. Raphael the Archangel in 1966. He has served in many roles in our parish, serving as President of our Men's Club, Scoutmaster, Co-chair of the auction and card party. He has been a servant leader in our community, helping out at events such as the school picnic and parish dinners.

In 1996, Deacon Jerry was ordained by then Archbishop Justin Rigali as a Permanent Deacon. He was assigned to St. Raphael the Archangel Parish, which was his only assignment. As a Deacon, he has served at countless Masses, celebrated many Baptisms, and his witness of faith has served as a witness to everyone in our parish and school community.

Jesus in our Gospel this Sunday exclaims His desire that the world was ablaze with the love of the Father. The life of Deacon Jerry shows us what it means to have a heart afire for love of God. It means building a home of faith. It means being a faithful worker in the occupation and employer of our choice. It means giving back and participating in the life of the wider community of faith.

Deacon Jerry, your heart is truly aflame with the love of God. We thank you that you have shared this love with us over many years. May we live out well what you have taught and shown us.

I invite everyone to thank Deacon Jerry at the 10:00am Mass this Sunday and to join us immediate-

ly following Mass for a reception in the gym, hosted by our parish council.

Welcome Back to School

This Sunday, we also welcome back our students to school as we have Back-to-School Sunday. We have 179 students in our Kindergarten-8th Grade and approximately 40 students in our Pre-K program.

Over the summer, we have painted a few more of the rooms and made some subtle improvements to the school as well. As promised at our auction, the new kitchen appliances for the cafeteria have arrived and most of them have been installed.

Mrs. Connie Holbrook and Mrs. Jessica Klein will be joining our faculty this year. In addition to these new teachers, we will be seeing a few more staff members than normal due to COVID relief funds made available by the government. This includes a full-time counselor, a school nurse, and more resources for our students and teachers.

Please pray for blessings on our entire school as we begin this new academic year on Tuesday.

8:00am Mass Resumes

With the return to school, we will resume having 8:00am Mass during the week beginning on Wednesday, August 17. 8:00am Masses will be celebrated from Monday-Thursday, with Thursday being a day with music at the Mass offered by Mr. Ben, who joined our school last year.

We will return to our pre-covid routine of not having 8:00am Mass on Friday as our students will be attending a prayer event in the school. This prayer event will allow our school to resume having families, which is something our students, parents, and teachers have all missed during this time of the pandemic. Also, when there is a national holiday which is observed in the school, we will not have 8:00am Mass on those days either.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

We are so grateful to so many families that trust St. Raphael the Archangel School for the education of their children. I am also aware that some families have chosen to send their children to a public or charter school that may not necessarily have a faith background. In these cases, families often send their children to a Parish School of Religion Program (PSR).

St. Raphael the Archangel is a partnering parish in the South City Deanery PSR Program at St. John the Baptist. I also respect those families that have chosen to be part of the PSR Program at Epiphany Parish.

If you are a parishioner of St. Raphael the Archangel and plan on sending your child(ren) to a PSR program for the 2022-23 school year, I ask that you meet with me by October 15, of this year. This meeting is so we can touch base on where your child is in faith formation and how the parish can serve your family. I believe this meeting is so essential that any parish portion of program fees for your chosen PSR Program will be withheld until this meeting takes place.

Parents are the first educators of their children, and I in no way want to infringe on this parental obligation. I simply want to be sure that all of our young people are learning the faith and all of our families feel welcomed and involved in the life of the parish.

“Bother Father”/Open Office Hours

Monday is the first day for Bother Father!

This is a time that anyone can stop by without an appointment and talk to me about anything you would like. Some things I have thought of are:

- Questions about our faith
- Questions about the sacraments or questions relating to an annulment
- Questions about our parish
- Take time to go to confession
- Discuss a situation that is ongoing in your life
- Receive help and direction relating to prayer
- Questions/concerns relating to All Things New
- And anything else you can think of...

Here are the times to “Bother Father” in

August:

Monday, August 15 8:00-10:00am

Tuesday, August 23 2:00-4:00pm

Wednesday, August 31 6:00-8:00pm

Please consider coming to the Rectory office and visiting!

This Week in Our Parish

Please consider joining us Wednesday for Prayer 101. This is a program put together by our recent graduate from the Archdiocesan Law Formation Program, Pam Hager. Pam approaches prayer from a practical lived experience as a working professional and desires to help us all understand and grow deeper in our faith. This session of Prayer 101 will be at 7:00pm in the church.

On Tuesday and Thursday this week, our Men’s and Ladies Clubs will be meeting. We invite all men and women in the parish to attend these meetings to hear about the great things we have planned this year and how you can help further the mission of our parish and of these organizations in particular.

This coming Saturday is our Pickleball Tournament and Watermelon Festival for the first time in Francis Park. Please see the flyer in this bulletin and the Flocknotes that will be coming out this week with more information about it.

Parish Meeting

On August 28, we will have an opportunity to come together as a parish community. At 5:00pm in the gym, we will meet to discuss the state of our parish. At this meeting, members of the Key Parish Leaders will be giving a report on our DMI results, our Finance Council will be giving an overview at our fiscal year-end of our current financial state, and we will also discuss the 2022-2023 Angel Appeal.

This meeting will also be livestreamed for our parishioners who are unable to join. We encourage everyone to join in person or via the livestream.

I will see you online or in Church! - Fr. John
#SRAstrong