



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 Ascension 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 Thomas Molini, as pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel parish and St. Raphael the Archangel parish in St. Louis, effective August 1. I have also decided to appoint your associate pastor, the Reverend Stephen Schumacher, as associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in St. Charles. I invite you to express your gratitude to your priests for their dedicated service in your parish.

Your new pastor will be the Reverend Monsignor Patrick Hambourgh. The Reverend Eugene Schaeffer III is appointed your associate pastor. Please welcome them warmly. The Reverend Kent Pollman currently assigned to provide pastoral care as associate pastor at your parish will continue to do so, as will Reverend Richard Bockskopf in his retirement.

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 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