

FROM OUR PASTOR

MAY 20, 2023



Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Raymond:

I came to St. Raymond in July 2019. At that time, I committed to a five-year term as pastor. As the prospect of the end of my term of service has appeared on the horizon, next June 2024, I have been concerned about ensuring a successor for myself who will honor and build upon the progressive spirit of St. Raymond that drew me to the parish.

I am excited to announce that Fr. Jerome Jacob will be the next pastor of St. Raymond. Those who have been in the parish for many years will remember that Fr. Jacob was an Associate Pastor here more than two decades ago, in the early years of Fr. Bernie Pietrzak's term as pastor. Fr. Jerry is a brother priest whom I like and respect. He is a well-balanced priest who has dedicated his entire priesthood to parish ministry. He will bring the gifts and experience necessary to lead the community forward on the path of renewal.

This means that St. Raymond will not go through a priest placement process as in the past when pastors have changed. Fr. Jerome Jacob will be appointed directly by Cardinal Cupich.

Timing is everything when it comes to placing priests in parish assignments. So, to make it possible for Fr. Jacob to succeed me, I have agreed with Cardinal Cupich to retire from full-time ministry just a bit earlier in January 2024. Fr. Jacob will become the pastor at that time. This will enable him to enter the parish while school is in session and to engage with parish staff in planning for the next ministry year.



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I look forward to working with Fr. Jerry on this transition in the coming months. I have great confidence in the future of St. Raymond under his leadership.

As a twenty-year resident of Mount Prospect, St. Raymond will continue to be my home parish. My time with the St. Raymond community has been quite unusual; I lived out first amid the difficulties of the pandemic and then amid the challenges of Renew My Church. I have been blessed to work with a gifted parish staff, an accomplished school principal and faculty, and dedicated lay leaders. I have made good friendships which I look forward to continuing. I am looking forward to spending more time with family after years of pandemic separation and being able to return to my passion for teaching as an ongoing contribution to the mission of the Church.

As our new tabernacle is blessed next weekend, it will serve as a constant reminder that the inspiration and power for the mission must be received constantly as gifts from God. The Church is the sacrament of union with God and the unity of humanity. That mission comes from God and not from any pastor. That mission belongs to the People of God and not any pastor. The role of each pastor is to animate and support the flow of spiritual gifts among the people, based on his unique talents. In the months ahead, let us remain united in the challenge of mission- to hand on the blessings we have received from our faith to the next generations.

To him who is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

Peace Be With You,



Fr. Scott Hebden

