

September 19, 2021

Hello Parish Family,

Today, we pray with Br. Ray at his last Mass at Nativity and we wish him well as he leaves Nativity after seven years with us. When he came to Nativity in 2015, Br. Ray already had a full-time ministry at St. Charles Borromeo, the Rope House, and the On the Rise Bakery, yet he somehow found the time to care for us in his unique way and to provide the inspiration and leadership we have valued so much. It goes without saying that all of us will miss him, but we send him off with our affection and gratitude knowing that he will use his Sabbatical experience to rest and immerse himself in spiritual renewal and a new service experience.

For this Sunday only, in order to accommodate the larger group who will attend Mass, we will open the left side of the church that faces the altar to every pew seating. We encourage social distancing in this section as much as possible. The rest of the church (the right side and both of the side sections) will remain roped to allow for every other pew, socially distanced seating. We will also add a row of folding chairs in the back of the church as needed. Masking will continue to be required for everyone. After Mass we will gather in the parish yard for coffee and sweets and the chance to enjoy each other and say thank you and Godspeed to Br. Ray!

Next week, St. Charles will have their last Mass and Reception with Br. Ray. We understand the desire that some have expressed about also wanting to attend that Mass, but because of space limitations and social distancing, we ask you not to do that. St. Charles has asked their parishioners not to overcrowd us, so please return that courtesy. You always have the option of watching the Livestream of the St. Charles Mass later in the day, but we will have our regular 9:30 Mass.

We want to bring two additional things to your attention:

The Archdiocese asked us to share this information with you: Those wishing to make a gift to support relief efforts in Louisiana, Haiti or both should be encouraged to support the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund. Gifts may be sent directly to the fund by mailing them to P.O. Box 96279, Washington, D.C., 20090-6278.

Also, we don't want you to forget the Strangers No Longer special Mass for Migrants and Refugees that will take place this Wednesday, September 22nd at Holy Trinity Church. Go to: <https://strangersnolonger.org/events> for more information and directions for registering or a link for Livestreaming. Registration is required.

Keeping you in our prayers,

The Parish Team

