

A Message from St. Nicholas, January 6-7, 2018

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, under the leadership of Archbishop Bernard Hebda, has just announced that it is time for our beloved Father Thomas Joseph to leave St. Nicholas Church, our “city set on the hill.”

Father Thomas Joseph has been our Pastor and spiritual leader for the past nine and a half years. Archbishop Hebda has asked Father to take a position in the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal which is like the court of the church. They handle things like marriage annulments and other Canonical issues.

It is important for us to remember and celebrate the time Father has been here with us. He leaves behind a legacy for which we can all be proud of. Just as our parish is one of Minnesota’s historical sites, under Father’s leadership, our congregation continues to grow, ultimately being a model of multiculturalism and inclusion. Also, our parish is financially solvent, due to innovative fundraising and generous donations from our congregation and beyond. Father Thomas has been a catalyst with our wonderful Prayer Garden, which is ultimately a showcase of God’s work on this earth. For all of this and much more, Father Thomas’ years spent at Saint Nicholas have made our lives better and more complete. We deeply appreciate him and all that he has done for us. We invite everyone to celebrate with him from 5-7 pm on Saturday, January 20 in the Parish Center. Father’s last Mass will be Thursday, February 1 at 7 am.

Effective February 1, Archbishop Hedba has assigned Father William Deziel, pastor of Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Chaska, to be our new pastor. He will be joined by his new Associate Pastor Father Edison Galarza. We have included an excerpt from the GA bulletin (*see reverse side*) so that you can learn more about both of them. Fr. Deziel has expressed his regret in announcing living arrangement here in Carver without first discussing that with Fr. Thomas or parish leadership, as those decisions are yet to be finalized. Our parish leadership has since met with Fr. Deziel to get an understanding of his vision as he will soon begin to serve our parish as well. With close to forty years of combined experience between the two of them, please rest assured that we will be in the hands of experienced leadership and they are open to coming to know the parish of St. Nicholas and its parishioners.

Although we wish we could have had more time for this pastoral transition, we can hold on to our memories of Fr. Thomas Joseph and seek to open our arms and hearts to both Father William Deziel and Father Edison Galarza. Let us all work hand in hand to ensure that both parishes thrive now and into the future. Let this be a time of rejuvenation, collaboration, and reassurance that we all are God’s people, destined to spread his holy word. Please pray for Father Thomas Joseph, Father William Deziel, and Father Edison Galarza as we go through this transition. May they continue to share the good word of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.