

New Year brings many changes for Guardian Angels and St. Nicholas in Carver!

The New Year often signals new beginnings and that certainly is true here this year. This past week, I was informed by Archbishop Hebda that I will become the pastor of St. Nicholas in Carver beginning on February 1st. Fr. Thomas Joseph, the pastor at St. Nicholas will be taking a new assignment at that time, but since I am not clear on the specifics of that assignment I will hold off from sharing more until I know more. This means that I will in effect be pastor of both Guardian Angels and St. Nicholas in Carver for the next six years. Along with these changes we will be receiving a parochial vicar, which is the formal term for what is often referred to as an associate pastor. His name is Father Edison Galarza and he will also serve as the associate pastor at St. Nicholas. Fr. Galarza has served as the priest administrator at St. Cyril and Methodius Church in northeast Minneapolis for the past 17 years. Fr. Galarza speaks both Spanish and English and he will be providing ministry in both Spanish and English at both Guardian Angels and St. Nicholas. The result is that both of us will be assigned to both parishes. I will serve as pastor and Fr. Galarza as associate pastor for both parishes.



Fr. Galarza is originally from the country of Ecuador in South America and some of his family members live up here in Minnesota. In fact, his mother lives with him and so she will be moving here to Guardian Angels with him. Fr. Galarza and his mother will live in the new house next to the parish offices which we have just purchased and have been fixing up for the past few months.

The timing of this works well in that we have a closing date of January 30th on the old rectory house on Pine Street which we have been trying to sell for some months. Rather than moving into the 2nd Street house, I will now move instead over to the rectory in Carver and live there. This will give me the opportunity to get to know the people in Carver and to know the parish there. Both Fr. Galarza and I will have regular office hours at both parishes and we will both be on call for emergency anointing and pastoral visits for people of both parishes. Fr. Kevin Manthey will stay on with us to offer our noon Spanish Mass until Fr. Galarza gets settled in and is serving here. Fr. Galarza will be going to Ecuador for an extended vacation in February, so he most likely will not be here serving in ministry until early March.

I know that this is a lot of change and is very unexpected for everyone involved. I also know that the Holy Spirit is always at work in the Church and it is important for all of us to trust the ways that our Lord builds His Church. Good things are always born of change and new beginnings are rooted in the Spirit. I'm sure that you may all wonder why all this change. I'm sure that most of us are aware that there has been talk for many years about closer collaboration and union between our parishes of Guardian Angels and St. Nicholas and these changes will be a big step to help us move in that direction. Our Chaska/Carver area is growing rapidly in population, but sadly, we have been missing out on harvesting much of that growth. The hope is that offering a more coordinated approach with our two parishes in both English and Spanish can help us better discern and meet the needs of this growing population in a way that builds a vibrant future for the Catholic Church in our area. The ultimate goal is growth and new life for the Catholic Church in our area.

Please pray for an abundance of outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Guardian Angels parish and St. Nicholas in Carver as well in the days, and weeks, and months ahead. Please pray as well for Fr. Thomas Joseph, Fr. Edison Galarza, Fr. Kevin Manthey, myself, and our brand-new Deacon John Cleveland who just began serving with us this week. Lots of ministry changes, and lots of opportunities, and challenges, but always the same Catholic faith rooted in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Fr. Deziel

