

May 25, 2019

Dear Guardian Angels and St. Nicholas Parishioners,

I am saddened to have to inform you that our beloved associate pastor, Fr. Edison Galarza will be receiving a new ministry assignment on July 1. Fr. Galarza will be serving the Spanish speaking community at Risen Savior Parish in Burnsville as well as the Spanish chaplain for Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

This will have significant implications for both St. Nicholas and Guardian Angels as we move forward. The last Spanish Mass at St. Nicholas will be on June 16. After that there will no longer be a Spanish Mass at St. Nicholas. Fr. Galarza will continue to offer the noon Spanish Mass at Guardian Angels the last two Sundays of June. It is my hope, and that of the Archdiocese, that the two Spanish speaking communities can come together in Christian charity and worship as one community as many of them did before the Spanish Mass began in Carver a few years ago. The Archdiocese will be assigning a Spanish speaking priest to offer the noon Spanish Mass in Chaska after July 1, but I am not able to announce who that is at this time.

Fr. Nels Gjengdahl will arrive in our area to assist with one English Mass on Sundays at Chaska, or Carver. He will also be serving as a full-time chaplain and teacher at nearby Holy Family High School in Victoria from Monday through Friday, with Saturday being his day off. He most recently served as pastor of Nativity Parish in Bloomington, and before that as a chaplain and teacher at St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights.

With these priest changes the English Mass schedule will need to be adjusted at both St. Nicholas and Guardian Angels. Beginning on the weekend of July 6 & 7, there will no longer be a 7 PM Mass at St. Nicholas on Saturday evenings. The 4 PM Mass will remain, and the Guardian Angels Mass will shift to 5:30 PM allowing me to offer both Masses on a regular basis. The Sunday morning English Mass schedule will remain the same at both Guardian Angels and St. Nicholas. The Tuesday and Thursday 7 AM morning Masses at St. Nicholas will no longer occur, however, the Friday evening 6 PM Mass St. Nicholas Mass will remain. The Guardian Angels daily Mass schedule will remain the same. Please see the back of this letter for the new Mass schedule.

I realize that these changes may be disruptive and unwelcome news for many, but we are simply trying to respond as best we can to the realities that we face. I ask all of us to make the best of it and to keep positive, joyful, hopeful, and faithful. It has been a great blessing to have Fr. Galarza with us the past year and a half and we wish him all the best in his new assignment. I am confident that the Lord will lead us forward according to His will during this time of transition and I ask for your prayers, support, and good will.

Your Servant in Christ,

Fr. William Deziel, Pastor