



Solemnity of Pentecost 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This weekend the Church throughout the world celebrates the Solemnity of Pentecost, and so commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, the foundation of the Church, and the beginning of her mission to all nations and peoples.

The mystery of Pentecost exhorts us to prayer and commitment to mission. The Holy Spirit inspires faith, hope, and charity in the hearts of the faithful, and ennobles the numerous and varied ways of transmitting the Christian message according to the culture and customs of all times and places. While giving us access to communion with God in prayer, the Holy Spirit also prompts us towards service of our neighbor by encountering him, by reconciliation, by witness, by a desire for justice and peace, by renewal of outlook, by social progress, and missionary commitment.

Almost two years ago, we as an Archdiocese embarked upon a strategic pastoral planning process, *All Things New*. We prayed to the Holy Spirit for guidance, and we committed ourselves to you, the faithful of this Archdiocese. An extensive process of listening was undertaken in all the parishes. Thereafter, I consulted the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council regarding every parish under consideration. I then spent time in further prayer, study, and discernment, after which I reached the following decision regarding St. John Baptist (St. Louis) parish.

Your parish will be subsumed into St. Stephen Protomartyr parish, effective August 1, 2023. The reason that forms the basis of my decision will be outlined in the decree concerning your parish and will be published at allthingsnew.archstl.org by Sunday afternoon, May 28. Any member of your parish who claims to have been aggrieved by this Decree has the right to ask me to change my decision. This request must be made in writing and postmarked no later than June 12, 2023, to me at the Cardinal Rigali Center.

In order to best provide for the needs of our local Church, I have decided to appoint your pastor, the Reverend Mitchell Doyen, as pastor of the newly established parish comprised of the former St. Nicholas parish in St. Louis, the former Sts. Teresa and Bridget parish in St. Louis, and the former Most Holy Trinity parish in St. Louis, effective August 1.

Your new pastor will be the Reverend Aaron Nord and the associate senior pastor will be the Reverend Monsignor Vincent Bommarito, effective August 1. Please welcome them warmly, as well as the new members of your parish family.

Please join me in praying for those among the faithful of the Archdiocese who will also be hearing challenging news this weekend regarding their parish. May the Holy Spirit draw us all closer together as we rededicate ourselves to new modes of evangelization and social outreach in bearing witness to our faith in Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis