

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024: Parish Announcement

St. Rose of Lima, Rev. Brian Izzo, Pastor

Good evening/morning:

This weekend at all the Masses, I am sharing some information that affects our Parish Community.

Each year, during the third weekend of May, Archbishop Perez ordains new priests for service in the local Church and announces clergy personnel changes. This year, a clergy personnel change is taking place in our parish.

I have been appointed the Pastor of St. Jerome Parish, in the Northeast section of Philadelphia. And Reverend James Goerner is replacing me as Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, and also, will be the Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Charity Parish, in Brookhaven.

As you may know or have observed over the past several years, more and more of our priests are being asked to assume additional responsibilities. While we are blessed to welcome three new priests this year, our Church has reached a point where we do not have enough priests available to serve as resident Pastors in all 214 parishes. Sadly, this year eighteen of our priests have passed away, some suddenly and unexpectedly. Fifteen of our priests are about to begin their much-deserved retirement after decades of faithful priestly service.

Given these realities, the archbishop cannot assign a resident Pastor to Our Lady of Charity Parish, however, Father Goerner will reside here at St. Rose Rectory, and he has generously agreed to assume additional parochial responsibilities for Our Lady of Charity Parish too.

It is extremely important to stress that this arrangement (of two parishes sharing one priest) does not in any way signify a merger or

consolidation between St. Rose and Our Lady of Charity Parish; both parishes remain their own, distinct, separate canonical entities.

This pathway is the best way forward for both St. Rose and Our Lady of Charity right now. It will require some flexibility, certainly from Fr. Goerner, but also from all of us. I know you will show Father Goerner the same patience, charity, and care that you have extended to me these past two years. I know this may sound challenging, but there are seven other parishes in the archdiocese who are hearing the same announcement this weekend. Other parishes throughout the Philadelphia area are likely to be in similar situations in the coming years and this reality is already present in other dioceses throughout the country.

As we move through this time of transition, you can play an important role in supporting our community. First, please welcome Father Goerner when he comes. Share your gratitude for his willingness to take on this additional responsibility for another parish. Be patient with him while he figures out how to balance these additional responsibilities. I will be providing updates to you over the next month. This change does not take effect until June 17, so we have time to say our farewells. Please know the archdiocese is committed to providing ongoing support to Father Goerner, and to you. Providing for your pastoral and sacramental needs remains a high priority.

Let us all recommit to praying for one another and an increase in vocation to the Priesthood at this time, so that we may be more open to the working of Holy Spirit in our lives, in the lives of young people and in the lives of our parish, which we celebrate on this Pentecost Sunday.