

## From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

September 22, 2024

Dear Friends,

The liturgy on weekends, major feast days, and special liturgical celebrations requires coordination, preparation and participation. We have been trying to bolster participation in the various ministries of lector, communion minister, usher, sacristan, altar servers. Besides knowing “how-to”, ongoing formation is something we should all seek. Thanks to all who have stepped forward and to those who have recruited them and trained them.

The next step will be to bring together a representative of each of these ministries to form a liturgy planning group. The plan is given to us by the Church; what is needed is preparation that encourages participation. Preparation is focused on the seasons, especially Advent/Christmas; Lent/Easter. It is a matter of coordination and communication.

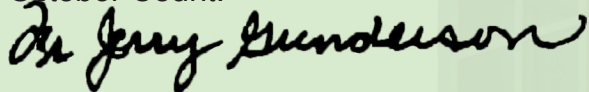
The Liturgy planning group will have an initial meeting on Monday, September 23rd at 6:30 PM in the Community Room. If interested call me at 847-234-1401 or email me at [jgunderson@stpatrick-lakeforest.org](mailto:jgunderson@stpatrick-lakeforest.org).

The changing seasons of the church calendar are expressed visually as well as musically and scripturally. An Art and Environment Committee is instrumental in this regard. It is not so much a matter of “decorating,” but rather, creating a visual and artistic aid to worship and prayer. Art and faith are deeply related. A group of volunteers is needed to prepare the church to reflect the season. A chairperson creates a vision and recruits volunteers for the committee. Its members are like worker bees.

Please help me identify individuals who have an artistic sense or who like to assist in this kind of thing. We have beautiful and prayerful spaces in both churches. Creating an environment that expresses the seasons is what is needed.

This past week I invited Bishop Grob to preside at the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, November 17th. Bishop Grob recently participated fully in the Eucharistic Revival with members of our parish as well as representatives of Vicariate I. I have asked the bishop to share some reflections on his experience at the Revival and how we might participate in the year of mission. Mark your calendar to join us.

Each year during the month of October the Archdiocese requires parishes to submit an October Count. The number of people attending each mass on each weekend is averaged. This year’s count will take place on the weekends between October 6 and October 27. It won’t hurt to invite your extended family and neighbors. Hopefully, if the liturgy, the music, the preaching, and the hospitality are good, they will want to become regulars. Decisions about priest placement are influenced by the October Count.



Fr. Jerry Gunderson