

# From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

April 13, 2025

## **A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza**

Dear Friends of Saint Patrick Parish,

I write to you with a heart full of excitement and eagerness as I begin this new journey with you in our Catholic community of Saint Patrick. I am truly honored to be part of this vibrant parish, and I look forward to the great things we will accomplish together. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will witness the fruits of our labor come to life as we participate in the renewal of our local Church.

At the same time, I recognize that transitions like this can be challenging. Change, even when it is good, takes time to adjust to. But we take comfort in the words of our Lord who assures us that, "with God all things are possible." I am confident that, together, we will marvel at the ways God will be at work among us.

For the past six years, I have had the joy of serving as an Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Glenview. As I am preparing to join you, I want to express my deep gratitude to Fr. Jerry Gunderson for his dedicated service and for his generous support during this transition. He has been a true shepherd, and we wish him every blessing as he follows Christ into retirement.

Please keep me in your prayers, as I will be praying for all of you. Let us also pray for Fr. Jerry and for our entire Saint Patrick faith community, that our hearts may be open to what God is asking of us in this moment of transition and renewal.

Let us trust in the promise of Scripture:

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you... plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope." — Jeremiah 29:11

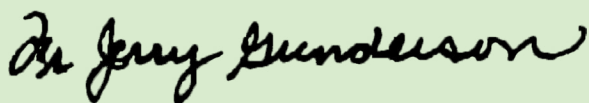
With gratitude and hope,

Fr. Patrick Kizza, Incoming Administrator, Saint Patrick Parish

## **Fr. Jerry's Comments**

Fr. Patrick came for lunch with our parish staff on April 2nd. He wasted no time getting to know more about our parish. I look forward to working with him toward a smooth transition. His assignment begins July 1st. Again, in the Archdiocese of Chicago, first time pastors are appointed administrator for the first year as it is a period of adjustment in which the priest evaluates what's working or not and the parish has the same opportunity. But the expectation is that the assignment will be a six-year term of office as pastor.

Today we begin the solemn celebration of Holy Week. My letters in the bulletin and my homilies in recent weeks have expressed the significance of the Triduum as a continuous observance of Christ's act of self-sacrificing love to give us a new life. I hope I can count on your presence.



Fr. Jerry Gunderson