

April 6, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

Dear Friends,

I am happy to share that Fr. Patrick Kizza has been appointed by Cardinal Cupich as the new administrator of St. Patrick, Lake Forest Parish as of July 1, 2025. Fr. Patrick is a gifted priest who has most recently served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Glenview, Illinois. He was born in Uganda and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2020. He has an engaging personality and a very joyful spirit. He looks forward to working with everyone here, especially young people. It is the policy of the Archdiocese that first-time pastors are appointed administrator for the first year.

I have known Fr. Patrick since his seminary days, and I am confident that Fr. Patrick will do a wonderful job continuing the great work of renewal that we have started here.

Fr. Patrick Kizza will share more with everyone in a letter to our parish soon. I ask all of you to keep him in your prayers. Coming into a new parish is both exciting and daunting for anyone – whether you're a priest or a parishioner. We must seek God's grace and ask Him to strengthen Fr. Patrick as he says goodbye to one community and accepts the Lord's call to shepherd ours. Let us also pray that God fills our hearts with gratitude for Fr. Patrick and that we may continue to trust in His Providence for the renewal of our local Church.

It has been a joy of my priesthood to serve St. Patrick as administrator this past year. In the remaining months I will work toward a smooth transition. I will continue in my role through the end of June. After that I will continue my ministry to priests and people as God calls me to do.



Here some final reflections by Pope Francis about the Easter Vigil. Here is a short excerpt from his reflection.

In the darkness of Holy Saturday, joy and light will break through with the rites of the Easter Vigil and, in the late evening, the festive singing of the Alleluia. It will be an encounter in faith with the Risen Christ, and the joy of Easter will continue throughout the following fifty days, until the coming of the Holy Spirit. He who was crucified is risen! All questions and uncertainties, hesitations and fears are dispelled by this revelation.

Christ's Cross is a sign of the hope that does not disappoint; and it tells us that not even one tear, not one sigh is lost in God's plan. The Risen One gives us the certainty that good always triumphs over evil, that life always conquers death, and it is not our end to descend lower and lower, from sorrow to sorrow, but rather to rise up high. The Risen One is the confirmation that Jesus is right in everything: in promising us life beyond death and forgiveness beyond sins. The disciples doubted it, they did not believe. The first to believe and to see was Mary Magdalene; she was the apostle of the resurrection who went to announce that she had seen Jesus... And then, all the disciples saw him.

This year St Patrick's will baptize three young people and two adults will complete their Sacraments of Initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist. Please consider joining us for the Easter Vigil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jerry Gunderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Jerry Gunderson