

THE PASTOR'S DESK

June 13, 2010 - Welcome Fr. Jose Arriaga



Dear Parishioners,

Fr. Jose Arriaga has been assigned to provide pastoral care for our Spanish speaking community. He will reside at St. Rose of Lima where he will also have pastoral care over the Spanish speaking community there. Fr. Jose comes immediately from St. Mark's in Hyattsville. But he has worked in the Archdiocese for several years now, including time at St. Martin's in Gaithersburg. Fr. Jose will divide his time between St. Rose and St. John's and, since Fr. Jose is also fluent in English, he can also help out with daily and weekend Masses here. This is very welcome news. When Fr. Gellert left, the Archdiocese told me that provision would be made for the Hispanic community, but not until the summer. Many of you may not know that I have been saying the Mass in Spanish since the beginning of the year (with the invaluable help, of course, of Deacons Carlo and Blake). Fr. Jose will be a help to me but, even more, he will be a help to the Hispanic community. My ministry to them has kept things going, but it is not a long-term solution, given my very rudimentary knowledge of Spanish.

Fr. Jose's first weekend will be July 4th. On that Sunday, there will be a couple of changes to the Mass schedule. Because he will have the Mass in Spanish at St. Rose at 1:00 pm, our Mass in Spanish will have to move back to 5:00 pm. The Mass in the Extraordinary Form will then move to 1:30 pm.

Please welcome Fr. Jose. He is a wonderful addition to our parish and his help is greatly appreciated. Please also pray for him as he is also taking on the very difficult task of caring for two communities.

Mass and Summer Vacation

With school out, summer officially begins. Many of you will be traveling and taking vacations this summer. I hope nobody, though, takes a vacation from attending Sunday Mass. Canon 1246 of the Church's Code of Canon Law says that "Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church." Canon 1247 goes on to say that "on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass . . ."

There are times when you may not be able to go to Mass. The Code of Canon Law recognizes this in Canon 1248: "If because of lack of a sacred minister or for other grave cause participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, it is specially recommended that the faithful take part in the liturgy of the word if it is celebrated in the parish church or in another sacred place according to the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, or engage in prayer for an appropriate amount of time personally or in a family or, as occasion offers, in groups of families."

Traveling can be a grave cause if you have no opportunity to find a church or if your travel times cannot be scheduled so as to allow you the time to go to Mass. We should avoid the attitude that "we're on vacation, we don't have to go." Planning ahead is also expected. "Grave cause" would also mean that you have no way of finding a Catholic Church that is reasonably close to where you're traveling despite your best effort to find one. There is a website called "masstimes.org" which can show you the location and Mass times for churches all over the country and, indeed, all over the world. If a grave cause exists and you miss Mass, remember that you are still obliged to read the Bible and pray. A good idea is to buy a Sunday Missal and do the readings and say the prayers for that Sunday. I hope everyone has a safe and restful summer vacation.

I would like to thank Fr. William for writing the article for the bulletin last week. He will be contributing more articles for the bulletin in the future. If you have any questions or topics that you would like us to write about, let us know.

**God bless,
Fr. LaHood**

* * *

Please mark your calendars now for the **Thanksgiving Mass** of Deacon Barry on June 27 at the **9:30 am Mass** and of Fr. Blake Evans on July 11 at the **11:15am and 5:00 pm Masses**. Come, celebrate their vocations and show your support to their ministry.

Receptions in the parish center will follow after the Thanksgiving Masses.
Details will be announced in coming bulletins.