

 SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

of Collegeville

14241 Fruit Farm Road St. Joseph, MN 56374 | 320.363.2569 | www.StJohnTheBaptistParish.org

April 30, 2019

Dear Friends,

During these Great 90 Days we are celebrating the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of Christ. Likewise, changes with parishes and priest personnel, there is also some dying to the old ways of doing things and rising to a new way of being parishes. The older ways of have worked to meet the needs of Catholics in the past but the times have changed; there are fewer people living in rural areas, families are having fewer children, there are fewer priests and people's participation in parish life has decreased. Bishop Kettler has taken these changes as an opportunity to re-imagine what parish life could be. This July he is creating 29 Area Catholic Communities (ACC), where each grouping will have one pastor with additional priest(s) and deacons as needed. While there is sadness in losing the way parish life used to be lived, there is also excitement in the new life that the Area Catholic Communities will create.

As of July 1st, Fr. Jerome Tupa OSB will become pastor of the new ACC of Saint John the Baptist and Saint Joseph Church. I will join Fr. Edward Vebelun OSB and Father Julius Beckermann OSB as a sacramental minister for the new ACC of Saint Benedict, Saint Anthony, Saint Martin & Seven Dolors. Being a sacramental minister means, at a minimum, I will share a rotating schedule of daily and weekend masses within the new ACC.

I ask you to be connected and informed during this time of change. Please read the parish bulletin and web site to keep updated. If you have questions or concerns, you can contact me or members of the Area Catholic Planning Committee:

Bob Simon: 320-248-9302; bobjanesimon@msn.com

Julie Ortloff: 320-492-2835; jortloff@csbsju.edu

Brian Posch: 320-333-2036; brianposch1@gmail.com

I feel very blessed to have been your pastor over these last few years. It has been a great privilege to be able to be with you in times of sorrow and celebration. Keep me in your in prayers, as I will keep you in mine during this time of transition.

Buen Camino,



Pax, Greg Miller OSB

We are a progressive Catholic Benedictine Community encountering Christ through the celebration of Word and Sacrament, one another, nature, and our thirst to create a just world.