

Dear Saint Winifred Parishioners,

As I begin my ministry as Administrator of your parish, please know how eager I am to meet and get to know all of you and the many wonderful things that go on at Saint Winifred's. And while any change in parish leadership can be challenging, I ask your prayers that I may serve both you and the people of Saint Anne's well. As the only priest assigned to both parishes I promise to do my best to meet everyone's needs, of course prioritizing the sacramental and liturgical responsibilities above everything else.

Special thanks to Father Peter Horton, not only for his wonderful service as your pastor these past five years, but also for how gracious he's been in welcoming me and preparing me for ministry here. May God bless him as he begins his work at Saint Thomas More!

I also want to offer a word of sincere gratitude to Father Ken White, former pastor of Saint Thomas More, who has graciously agreed to assist at Saint Winifred's in a substantial way until Father Richard Infante arrives on October 15th. Each week, Father White will offer at least two Sunday and three weekday Masses between here and Saint Anne's, as well as covering Confessions and some funerals.

As you know, Bishop Zubik has given the Saint Anne/Saint Winifred grouping until the end of 2020 for form one new parish. Over the summer months I will begin to meet with the various advisory councils and a planning process will begin to unfold. I promise to keep you aware every step of the way as things develop.

In the meantime, I would encourage everyone over in the months ahead to attend a weekend Mass at Saint Anne's, and I have encouraged them to come to Saint Winifred's so that we can all get to know and appreciate each other and the two parishes.

Without a doubt, the weeks and months should be interesting and challenging for the parishioners, staff and clergy of the Saints Anne and Winifred grouping. But I am certain that if we keep our priorities straight as baptized Catholics desiring above everything else an encounter with Christ through the sacramental life of the Church – and if we all stretch ourselves a bit and generously extend ourselves to one another, then we can all be assured of a bright and happy future.

Good to be here!

Fr. Mike