

January 6<sup>th</sup>

Feast of the Epiphany

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

As you probably know, Jodee Korkowski, our long term parish administrator has discerned to leave her position as of last Monday, December 31. We are all most grateful for her tremendous efforts to serve our parish over the past 10 ½ years and she will be sorely missed by all. She has been the glue that had kept our parish together and she has been the one person to ensure that everything is functioning and at full speed. Please join me in thanking her for her incredible service to our parish and our parishioners. On the weekend of December 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> we held receptions for her after all the Masses to thank her. The parish also presented her with travel gift cards so that she could enjoy a well deserved vacation. Thank You Jodee!

While Jodee is literally irreplaceable, we must, however, continue onward and we will. With a change this big in our parish life, there will inevitably be other changes as well and I ask for your patience, prayers, and good will as we find our way forward during this time of transition.

In the interim, Jean Rief, and Lynn Arnal who are staff members at Guardian Angels in Chaska, will be helping with our administration, pastoral care, and receptionist duties. Roxie Diaz, who speaks both Spanish and English, will also help with some receptionist hours part time. I ask you to please give them all a warm St. Nicholas welcome. This will be a transition for them as well.

The office hours at St. Nicholas will now be;

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

There will be some other changes as well. One that you will notice immediately is that beginning next weekend, January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a combined bulletin for both St. Nicholas and Guardian Angels parishes. You will still be able to find all the pertinent information needed for St. Nicholas, but it will be in one bulletin for both parishes. We will also have a combined Spanish bulletin for both parishes.

Another immediate change will be integrating the phone systems between the two parish offices so that phone calls to either parish office can be easily transferred from one office to the other. We expect this phone system to be in place by the end of January. By God's grace this is

working out very well because Guardian Angels was already in the process of changing their phone system, and it turns out that it is fairly simple to connect St. Nicholas with this system as well. The St. Nicholas office phone number will remain the same.

As of January 1, our bookkeeping and accounting is now being done by the Archdiocesan run Parish Accounting Services Center (PASC). They handle the accounting for a number of parishes, especially smaller ones like ours so that this function doesn't have to be done at the parish level. Guardian Angels uses PASC, and the PASC office has informed us that they can manage the accounting for St. Nicholas as well.

There will most likely be other changes down the road as well, but for now we'll just take things one step at a time. I want to stress that while we will be much more closely collaborating and integrating with Guardian Angels parish with such things as staffing, programming, ministries, and administration, we are not in the process of merging the parishes. Each parish will remain separate from one another with their own unique identity. Each parish will have their own trustees, legal structure, councils, finances, etc. Whatever you contribute on Sunday will go solely for the support of St. Nicholas parish.

I ask for your patience, prayers, and good will as we go through this time of transition. There are both challenges and opportunities with these changes. With the Holy Spirit leading us, and each of us doing our part, I am confident that God continue to make great things happen in our parish life.

May God bless you all with a most Happy New Year!

Fr. William Deziel

Pastor

Fr. Edison Garlarza

Associate Pastor