



July 24, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Sts. Joachim and Anne,

Many of you have been asking for an update about your pastor and parish. I am grateful that I am now able to provide some news to you, as well as a plan for moving forward. First, I would like to share with you that Father Erik Lundgren, after much thought and prayer, submitted his resignation as Pastor of Sts. Joachim and Anne, effective July 19, 2021. I have accepted the resignation. While he has poured himself out in service to your parish these past seven years, he is now exploring an opportunity in the Diocese of St. Cloud that would draw upon his rich experience in Shakopee. I am grateful to Fr. Erik for his generous service to your parish community and I hope that you will be able to schedule an opportunity for the members of your parish to personally thank him for his exceptional service at Sts. Joachim and Anne.

I am pleased to share with you that I have appointed Father Michael Becker to serve as your new Pastor effective January 3, 2022. Father Becker served as Rector of the St. John Vianney College Seminary for the past 10 years, and currently is preparing for his transition back to parish life by taking a sabbatical. Prior to serving as Rector, Father Becker had been a very successful pastor at St. Michael Parish in St. Michael, Minnesota. I believe that Fr. Becker (as pastor) and Fr. Matthew Quail (as parochial vicar) will be a dynamic team of priests that will bring great gifts and the promise of many blessings to you.

I remain grateful to Father Al Backman, who is so generously serving as your Parochial Administrator. As you have already experienced, Father Backman is a veteran pastor with a kind and compassionate pastoral presence who can serve as a bridge until Father Becker's arrival.

I know that in recent months you as a parish have experienced uncertainty as it relates to a priestly presence for your community. While this situation has not always been easy for you, you have been incredibly patient. I thank you for your cooperation as we all seek the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in a future beyond ourselves and grounded in serving the Kingdom of God for our time and place.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis