

Subject: Important Information from the Q & A with Bishop Kevin

Hello, People of St. Gabriel's.

For those of you who were unable to meet with Bishop Kevin after the November 11, 2018 services, I have tried to capture the topics of conversation and important points about each. Please review the information below and let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me on my cell phone: 484-919-7239. Thanks to everyone for your continued dedication to St. Gabriel's and for being part of our church family.

Care of Father David and His Family

Some people asked about things like helping Father David with moving or other activities as he prepares to leave us. Bishop Kevin was very clear that he, Bishop Kevin, is now in charge of caring for Father David and that we should not attempt to provide any such help. Bishop Kevin is very pastoral and obviously very caring, as well. We have every reason to be confident that Father David is in good hands and we need to cooperate with the Bishop in this regard.

Care of Each Other

This is a difficult time for our parish family. People are in pain. Deacon Sally made a very important point. We are all here to hear. We must all do our best listening as we talk to people. Sometimes that is all we can do and many times, that is enough.

Contact with Father David

When a rector leaves, further contact is to be avoided. Bishop Kevin explained how this cuts both ways. Our parish needs time to deal with this change and by avoiding contact, the hope is we more quickly come to accept the change. Bishop Kevin explained, based on his own experience, that it can also be painful for the priest, since it reminds him or her of relationships in which they can no longer participate. Deacon Sally echoed this when describing her sabbatical.

Should you run into Father David while you are out and about, you are not forbidden to say hello. As Bishop Kevin put it, if you run into him in the grocery store, you don't have to hide in the frozen food section and avoid speaking with him. Bishop Kevin went on to say that it is a bad idea to ask for details of how things are going and then report that to others.

Additionally, it is okay to send a Christmas card, but not to include an invitation to get together or include a present (e.g., gift card or money). Bishop Kevin did indicate that you should avoid sending cards for things like Groundhog's Day. In other words, limit sending communications, as well.

Changes to Anything?

Our mission is still the same. There is no intent to stop any ministries or anything we do to help our congregation or the community at large. Deacon Sally, Russ, and I are working to make sure that all services are covered by supply clergy and already approximately half of the services between now and

the end of January are covered, including the three Christmas services. Services at the Villa will continue as well.

On occasion, a service may be Morning or Evening Prayer, if clergy cannot be obtained. It is our goal to keep that to a minimum. It is my goal to make sure that we use Deacon Sally wisely and not just have her cover any service for which we have any difficulty obtaining other clergy.

Our Next Rector

Bishop Kevin gave us good news, twice! Bishop Kevin views St. Gabriel's as an attractive place for anyone wishing to be a rector. Equally good news is that the methods for obtaining a new rector are in flux. The old model of first spending an extensive amount of time creating a parish profile and then waiting for a list of candidates is not law. A possible path is that we will get a priest-in-charge and, if mutually agreeable, we could eventually call that person to become our new rector. At any rate, we have reason to be hopeful that we will have a new rector considerably sooner than last time.

Conclusions

- Bishop Kevin is taking care of Father David's needs
- Care for each other by being good listeners, not problem solvers
- We must maintain space from Father David
- There is no intention to change any of the good works in which St. Gabriel's is involved
- There is good reason to hope that we will have a new rector sooner than last time

Thanks to all of you for being who you are and doing what you do!

Steve Fairbrother
Senior Warden