

Thanks to *Totus Tuus*

I want to thank again the *Totus Tuus* team leaders who joined us last week to lead the faith enrichment course for youth and young adults in the parish. They had been traveling around to different parishes in the diocese for most of the summer and we were their last stop. Hopefully they can find time for a brief break before going back to school and other commitments. We pray for them and their ministry.

Thank you as well to all others who volunteered to help with the program. It is such a life-giving event, and seeing groups of young people excited about their faith can help us all find that same excitement.

I also want to remind families that to register for parish faith formation in the fall. This is especially important if your child is preparing for First Communion or Confirmation this year.

Fr. Oswaldo at St. Joseph

We welcome (back) to our parish Fr. Oswaldo. He has been named as Parochial Vicar (or Associate Pastor) of the parish of St. Joseph. The bishop has asked that both the English and Hispanic communities continue to work together to foster unity and collaboration. His goal is that the Hispanic congregation be more integrated into the parish community, rather than become its own separate community. We understand that this is a gradual process, but an important one.

It will, therefore, be important that Fr. Oswaldo and I work with both the Hispanic and English populations. Parishioners should also be considering ways to cooperate and support one another as we go forward. One area where we will make an immediate change is to incorporate Fr. Oswaldo into the Sunday Mass schedule. For the months of August and September, Fr. Oswaldo will be offering the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph (in English), then the 10:30 a.m. Mass (in Spanish), then traveling to St. Andrew's in Elk River to offer Mass there at 1:00 p.m. (in Spanish). I would be taking the other Masses on the schedule: at St. Michael Saturday 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 10:30 a.m. and at St. Joseph 7:30 a.m. on Sunday.

This also means that Fr. Oswaldo and I would each have three Masses on a weekend (not counting weddings or funerals) in compliance with the bishop's guidelines and the Code of Canon Law.

I understand that there might be some challenges ahead – and I want to do all I can to make this as smooth and easy a transition as possible. We plan on having our deacons regularly joining Fr. Oswaldo for the Mass in English to proclaim the gospel and preach. We also will be altering the schedule for October and November, when Fr. Oswaldo (and the deacons) will move to the 7:30 a.m. Mass and I will take the 9:00 a.m. Mass. I personally know how difficult it can be to preside and (especially) to preach in a second language. Hopefully, these arrangements will help everyone find as much peace as possible and continue to encourage that cooperation which will be so important going forward into the future.

Fr. Timothy Gapinski