



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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June 1, 2019

✠ St. Justin the Martyr

Re: Assignment of New Priest

Dear Parishioners:

Christ is Risen!

As you are now aware, Fr. Rick is being transferred to another parish. Parish council president George Mastrogiorgis has spoken with Metropolitan Nathanael several times regarding the assignment of a new priest. Change, even positive change, is always stressful. And that stress causes us to be anxious about the possible unknowns that lay before us. Therefore, it is especially important at this time for us to prayerfully exercise our faith and trust in the Lord to guide the decisions of our Metropolitan and our parish council.

Metropolitan Nathanael has a candidate in mind and shared his rationale with George and information about the process for assignment and transfer of clergy. George has also spoken directly with this candidate. He has been a priest for eight (8) years serving as an assistant in a large parish his first three years and as proistamenos of a medium size parish the last five years. He has strong and valuable skills working with youth and families, is well educated and is passionate about his role and the priesthood. He has successfully revitalized his current parish. He is Greek-American, he's wife is a convert and they have three young children. He is currently assigned as a priest in the New York diocese but has family ties in the Twin Cities.

The candidate will be visiting our parish next weekend and serving liturgy on *Sunday June 9th*. This will be an opportunity for us to meet him and for him to meet us. He will be available for casual conversation in order to facilitate getting to know each other.

Although Metropolitan Nathanael feels strongly about making a final decision to officially assign this priest candidate to our parish, he welcomes feedback which can be given through the parish council. If you have general feedback about the characteristics, qualities and needs of our parish, as well as the same desired in a potential candidate, please offer them to the parish council now and/or immediately after the visit of the



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candidate priest. Metropolitan Nathanael will take this into consideration before making his final decision.

Please understand our expectations for a candidate, the role of the Metropolitan and the process must be in accordance with the canonical tradition of our Greek Orthodox Church. *“Clergy are assigned or transferred by the respective Hierarch within his Archdiocesan District/Metropolis by virtue of the authority of his office and in accordance with the canons, ecclesiastical procedure and the needs of the Archdiocesan District/Metropolis”* (see Archdiocese Regulations, Part Three, Chapter One, Article 17, Section 2, p.24)¹. The parish council has a consultative role, but the hierarch has the exclusive right and privilege for assignments and transfer of clergy. *“Prior to the assignment or transfer of a Priest, the respective Hierarch(s) shall inform all affected Parish Councils of the assignment/transfer upon consultation with the respective Priest and the respective Parish Council”* (ibid).

Metropolitan Nathanael and the parish council welcomes input and feedback from parishioners. Please contact anyone of the parish council to provide feedback. Finally, as we approach the Feast of Pentecost, let us ask the Holy Spirit to come and abide in us, to grant us peace, wisdom and discernment.

Truly He is Risen!

Parish Council of St. George Church

George Mastrogiorgis, President
Stephen Kanavati, Vice President
Stephen Arsenault, Secretary
John Simon, Treasurer
Lily Zahariades, Assistant Treasurer
Diane Anastos
Alexis Bighley
Dino Contolatis

Nanette Gomez
Petko Ivanov
Milam Paraschou
Jim Theros
✝Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews,
Presbyter

¹ <https://www.goarch.org/documents/32058/3058354/2017+Regulations.pdf>