

St. Joseph on the Brandywine

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June 12, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

As you are well aware our parish has experienced significant change this year with the retirement of our long time and beloved pastor, Msgr. Rebman. Through his 21 years of peace, love, and joy in conjunction with a dedicated clergy and staff, generous volunteers, and your own faithfulness and kindness, our church has become a wonderful place to worship our loving God and grow in true community and faith together.

Mindful of how much St. Joseph on the Brandywine means to so many, I would like to inform you that Bishop Malooly has graciously appointed **Rev. Msgr. John P. Hopkins** as the next pastor of St. Joseph on the Brandywine Parish. Msgr. Hopkins will begin his ministry here, effective **Wednesday, July 7, 2021**.

Those of you who may already know Msgr. Hopkins are aware of what a blessing this is for our parish. A graduate of Salesianum and a priest of our diocese, Msgr. Hopkins was ordained in 1978 and first served as an Associate Pastor of Corpus Christi Parish. He would then be named the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry & the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). In 1999, among other honors and responsibilities, Msgr. Hopkins was appointed as the founding pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Glasgow, DE. And so for 22 years, he has faithfully served there — developing not only the land, but an ever-growing and vibrant community of believers, drawing many people to a greater love of the Lord.

And so as we soon welcome Msgr. Hopkins as our new pastor, please keep him in prayer for a smooth transition as he bids farewell to his long time spiritual home and comes to join our spiritual family here at St. Joseph on the Brandywine. It will be an exciting time for us as he brings his own unique set of gifts and talents to our community and continues to build off of the great foundation established by Msgr. Rebman.

As for me, I have been assigned by Bishop Malooly as the Administrator of St. Joseph Parish on French Street in Wilmington, also effective on July 7, 2021. I will be in residence at St. Elizabeth Parish in Wilmington as St. Joseph on French Street no longer has living quarters there.

In a relatively short amount of time, we have been through very much together. It was an honor and a blessing for me to help move us through the ups and downs of the pandemic, to minister and share God's grace and love here, and now to facilitate the handshake and transition of our pastors. While I do leave with a heavy heart, I do so at the same time with joy that God is continuing to bless our parish with great leadership in Msgr. Hopkins. So know that as I soon move from one St. Joseph to another, I will always carry this one and you in my prayers and in my heart.

May God bless you and keep you always under His watchful care, as I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Vy. Rev. Glenn M. Evers
Temporary Administrator

