



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
1322 Moss Street (*Office*)
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119
Phone 504.488-2659 Fax 504.488-6741
www.ourladyoftherosary-no.org
Email: office@ourladyoftherosary-no.com

August 13, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Thank you for the wonderful welcome that you extended to me last weekend as I finally arrived to begin my service as your pastor! I am very excited to be installed this weekend by Fr. Paul Desrosiers, who is the Dean of our City Park/Gentilly Deanery.

On Tuesday, I met for the first time as pastor with the Pastoral Council of the parish. One of the things that we discussed is the need for religious education and sacramental preparation in our parish. As you've read in the bulletin and as you've heard announced at Mass, the parish has been encouraging families with children in 1st and 2nd grades and 10th and 11th grades to contact the parish so that we can provide for the necessary preparation to receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, respectively.

Over the summer, Archbishop Aymond came to Washington, D.C. to visit the four of us who were there for canon law studies. At dinner, he called my attention to the essential need for each parish to offer religious education and sacramental preparation to its young people. As I reminded the Pastoral Council, at my diaconate ordination, I promised respect and obedience to the Archbishop and his successors. So after this conversation with him in Washington, D.C., the question regarding religious education for the children of Our Lady of the Rosary changed from "if we should have a program" to "how can we start a program."

We are now moving quickly to begin in September religious education classes for these four grades—1st, 2nd, 10th, and 11th—so that none of our young people are delayed in receiving the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. In addition to this, the archbishop has recently assured me that, even though we are not currently on the archdiocese's confirmation schedule, he will make time this year to come to Our Lady of the Rosary to confirm our young people in our own church!

As our parish staff begins to implement this plan for sacramental preparation, this is how you can help:

- 1) **Pray!** - Pray that our sacramental preparation will begin smoothly this year and will lead us into a full complement of religious education classes next year so that we can minister effectively to our families and young people.
- 2) **Get the word out!** - Remind families with children in 1st and 2nd grades that now is the time to begin preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Remind families with children in 10th and 11th grades that now is the time to start preparing for Confirmation. These families can contact the church office to register: 488-2659 or office@ourladyoftherosary-no.com.

We have not yet determined the days or times that classes will meet. This will come soon as we consult with the catechists who will lead each of these groups of young people.

As I said in my homily last weekend, I am excited to see where the Lord will lead our parish in the years to come. I strongly agree with Archbishop Aymond that formation and education of our young people must be a high priority for our parish as we strive to be a family of faith, journeying closer to the Lord Jesus!

To Jesus through Mary,



Fr. Jonathan
jhemelt@arch-no.org

Don't forget that Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Holy Day of Obligation!

Please make plans to attend Holy Mass as we celebrate this great feast. Our Mass times are:

- Monday, August 14th at 6:00pm
- Tuesday, August 15th at 7:00am
- Tuesday, August 15th at 6:00pm