



ST. BARBARA CHURCH
Where people are saints & sinners

Dear Parish Family,

Where to begin? As I walked out to watch the sunset on our beautiful church and campus one evening last week, first I thought: "Dear God, How did we do all of this?" It was due to extreme faith in God, and all of you. You have never hesitated to jump in and get involved whenever I have requested that we accomplish something. As I reflected on my assignment as your Pastor I realized that this has been the best twenty years of my life! As a family, you stuck by me through the good times and the bad. I buried my mother, my sister, and one of my nieces from here. You stood by my side when I went through drinking phase, which was the roughest thing I have had conquered, and you welcomed me right back and have supported me ever since. We've cried at funerals. We laughed at weddings, baptisms, and other celebrations. All of those times just brought us closer together.

I could never have done it without the help and support of Deacon Chuck, and (in my opinion) the best Staff in the diocese; past and present. I have received so many cards and notes from people who say that they joined here because they felt SO welcomed from the first moment, they walked into the church, and I know that will continue. One of the great gifts of our parish is that we have never had to worry about money, thanks to all who were here before me, and all of you. I believe that is because of our extreme faith in God's generosity and goodness.

I thank you all for making this the best 20 years of my priesthood! I ask that you please give my successors the same support that you have always given me. I trust that our paths will continue to cross. Please keep me in your prayers as I venture into this new chapter in life. You will be in my prayers always.

Until we meet again, I remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ Love,

Fr. John