



May 14, 2024

Feast of St. Matthias

Dear Adorers of the Holy Eucharist,

I want to thank you for your fidelity to your holy hour(s). This ministry stands out as one of the most important as an extension of the Mass, a perpetuation of Jesus' sacramental presence in our parish. It's certainly one of the first things I think of with pride (Lord, have mercy) as I prepare to hand over the parish leadership to Fr. Bryan Dolejsi.

Directly related to adoration, and I believe there is lots of evidence for this, is the flourishing of vocations here at St. Stephens. With 3 seminarians, 1 novice and two deacon candidates, we can be very grateful for what God is doing through your prayers. Adoration radiates grace to our parishioners and our neighborhood.

With that I would like to encourage you to come taste the fruit of your labors as Joseph Tapia-Beeman is ordained to the transitional diaconate on Saturday the 18th at 10am. Bishop Schuster will preside. It promises to be a glorious liturgy with bishop, priests, deacons, seminarian, religious and the laity all involved.

I also invite your prayers for our Witness to Love program which is gearing up as our primary marriage prep and enrichment program. Ellen Golden Hecht is bringing this to full launch in a few weeks along with Deacon Ike's formation of married couples ready to assist. Holy marriages bless our Church with their presence and with beautiful children, please God, all while sanctifying the world.

Thank you again, especially in this time of transition, for all your prayers for myself and the parish. Thanks, too, for our coordinators, Bernie and Tina, staff persons Janet and Nina, for all their work on behalf of this ministry. We have been able, by such grace, to do wonderful things for the Lord. You all remain a great blessing in my life. May God's peace reign in your hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Ed