

Meet Your Parish



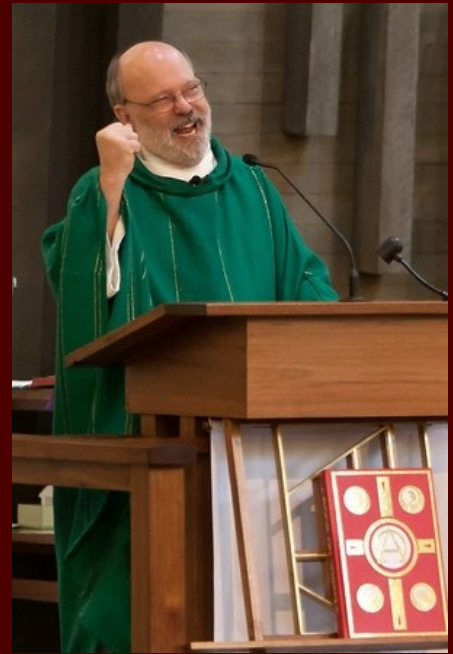
Holy Trinity's Parishioner in the Spotlight

Clearly, the man can speak for himself, but here is what Fr. Dave Gese had to say when asked:

CATS. I was the one with the cat Trixie--suitably named after "Tricky Dick". She once jumped up on the altar at HT during the Consecration. I was lifting up the chalice with my right hand and swatting her down from the altar with my left. Only a few from Holy Trinity seem to have remembered that Mass. Perhaps, most of the folks were dutifully focused on just the chalice.

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Father Jack I'd also like to thank Fr. Jack for giving me the great gift of helping him out at a parish I have always loved and have such fond memories of. As pastor, Fr. Jack has the kind of enlightened leadership I've always believed in and sought to utilize in the parishes I've been assigned to. Vatican II was all about celebrating the voices and energy of all God's people. Jack has been of such long service and so effective as pastor because he trusts the peo-



ple and the parish staff to all work together for the good of God and the parish, and lets them do their jobs. A pastor is a minister to the ministers, and he ministers well!

The choir They are contemporary with the best of the new Catholic music and joyfully delivered and well directed. The music here makes for an inspirational liturgical experience for me and all I have spoken to about it here.

On Inspiration They say every priest has 4 or 5 basic homilies they repeat in various forms for their whole career as preachers. I'm not aware of what my list might entail, but I know the basic Christian truth for me is expressed by Jesus Himself in the Lord's Prayer. We say, 'Thy kingdom come', but I believe in order for God's Kingdom to come, our kingdoms often must GO.

My spiritual hero is the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr. His latest book 'Falling Upward' beautifully shows how letting go and letting God is not just a cliché. Our current Pope Francis is like a personal validation for me of just what it means to be a follower of Christ in today's world. As the song says, "God is the simplest thing of all!"

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Your Parish Articles.

Back to Holy Trinity I don't know if I come in the best way, but just before Pine, there is David St. Just like when I came to Holy Trinity to serve here in 84-85, it felt like God was telling me I was coming home.

Ahead Who of us even imagined being that old! [The Beatles' When I'm 64] At 17, the song conveyed a whole strange, new world when I'd be hobbling around on a crutch and be totally out of the loop of life. At 62, I just rejoice that Paul McCartney is over 70 now but still around to sing the song, and we baby boomers get to keep raising the ceiling of what it means to be old. Fortunately for me and many our age and older, we'll always be kids at heart.

Speaking of hearts, I should share that the reason I have not been a Pastor for two years, and why you haven't seen my name in the Progress Priest Transfers, is because I have been

living with Congestive Heart Failure for about 20 years now. Name an ailment and I probably have it, and a medication and I'm likely on it. Still, God must want me to stick around a while longer and my friends more chronically advanced in years tell me I'm just a kid, I kinda like that.

I am medically retired but still carry the official Archdiocesan card that identifies me as a priest able to serve validly in the Archdiocese. I look at how long Fr. Jack has been serving as a priest and a pastor and know what a blessing it is to be a Priest forever. It's not work when you're having fun and still making a difference.

I am limited to being able to be active for perhaps two five hour time spans a day, with a four hour nap in between, but life is still full. I thank God for evening and late morning Masses, because my energetic times do not include mornings.

Helping out in a parish with extensive Mass times like Holy Trinity makes my service here even more a blessed Holy Gig indeed.

Wise Advice

A very wise Confessor in the Seminary told me not to be concerned about living up to anyone else's image of what I was supposed to be because Jesus' call to us all is to be the best me we can be. I love being a priest, and can only hope that those who might find me a bit off the wall will eventually see I'm a pretty simple guy, and I really do try to love all God's people, especially those I have been given to serve throughout all these 35 years.