

Notes from Fr. Nick

Blessing of the Animals

Last year at Saint Lawrence we anticipated the Feast of Saint Francis (October 4th) with a blessing of pets on the preceding Sunday. Although we had to clean up a few “accidents” in the church, the pets were well behaved (better than some of their owners). The event was an outstanding success, and so we’re going to give it a try here. **After every Mass next weekend (September 30th/October 1st), at Berryman Plaza** in front of the church, **we’ll place our animals under the patronage of Saint Francis.** You are even welcome to bring your pets to Mass! We’ll clean up any mess they might make.



Why bless our animals? Saint Francis understood that all of creation gives God praise. Although human beings praise God consciously, everything in the universe gives praise by its very existence. An appreciation of our animals reminds us that God created everything. When we show our care for them, and they respond with affection, they reflect the unqualified love God has for us. This in turn gives us an appreciation of the web of existence we are all a part of.

Our pets’ participation in this Church blessing acknowledges their place in creation, and it reminds us that we are not alone in praising God.

I encourage you to **invite your friends and neighbors to bring their pets to Berryman Plaza next Sunday.** Whether or not they are Catholic—or even believers—this is a chance for our neighborhood to come together. We’ll make sure that the animals have water and treats. We’ll also welcome their guardians to an event that’s at once sacred and enjoyable for all.

R.S.V.P. for Fr. Nick’s Installation Reception + Welcome to New Parishioners and to Fr. Ioane and Fr. Laurent

At the **11:00 am Mass on Sunday, October 8th**, the **Very Reverend George Mockel**, Vicar General of the Diocese of Oakland, will formally install Fr. Nicholas Glisson as our new pastor. Immediately after the Mass, we will proceed to the new Dominican Garden for a reception and welcome to new parishioners and priests.

Please email rsvp@marymagdalen.org or call the parish office to let us know you’re coming. We would also appreciate contributions of either **cheese and crackers** or a **side salad** to our delicious lunch. Thank you!