

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

In a novena of days from today Holy Mother Church will celebrate the Solemnity of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Feast of the Archangels. On September 29th, we are given to recall the power and action of God through these heavenly messengers, whose names simply denote the message they bear: Who is like God?! The Strength of God. God heals.

September 29th, 2020 also happens to be the patronal feast of our Diocese of Springfield in this 150th Anniversary year. During this week in 1870, the first Bishop of Springfield was consecrated for service on the western edge of what was once the Diocese of Boston. Since then many have served in our parishes and communities, including congregations of women religious, friars and brothers, missionary priests and local vocations, and so many men and women of God in our families and homes.

While this 150th anniversary of instituted Catholic life in our region will be forever remarkable given the pandemic and Archbishop Rozanski's elevation to the See of St. Louis, it also precedes our own local remarkability as we anticipate the opening of our *In the Beginning* Pre-School ministry and the 75th Anniversary of the founding of our parish of St. John the Evangelist. Please join us in prayer for these two causes and celebrations. Next weekend we look forward to an Open House of our Pre-School in its temporary space and also a peek into the future classrooms. This Monday, I also invite you to an introductory meeting that will look to establish plans for our 75th Anniversary.

May the intercession of the Archangels assist us in all our efforts, and may God's message of majesty, strength, and healing keep us always set in heart and mind on Him!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz