

Dear St. Anastasia Parishioners,

Last weekend after all of the Masses I made an announcement. The same announcement was sent by e-mail to all Catholic families in the Archdiocese of Detroit; although, they were limited to the e-mails they have in their database. In case you were not present at Mass, last weekend, and/or were not sent an e-mail, I am writing to give you information on 1) what was announced and 2) of a Q&A Night with prayer service on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As you may have heard, we have made an announcement after all of the Masses concerning the Baptisms attempted by Deacon Mark Springer. When conferring any Sacraments, the minister is to use only the "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." If and when Deacon Springer did not use the prescribed formula, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." to baptize, unfortunately, those baptisms are considered "invalid". I recognize the hurt and pain that this news may cause and I am deeply sorry. With the help of the Archdiocese, all those who have been baptized by Deacon Mark Springer, between the years of 1986-1999, will be notified to the best of their ability. If you or someone you know was baptized during that time period by Deacon Springer, you are asked to give the St. Anastasia parish office a call at 248-689-8380 to speak with Fr. Steve Wertanen or Fr. Jim Houbeck. We will be in the process of scheduling times for those to be validly baptized and, at the same time, receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I promise that we will walk through this time with you.

There is a good chance that between the years of 1986-1989 (perhaps, 1990 and 1991), Deacon Springer used the correct formula to confer a valid Sacrament. We ask that, especially during these years, that you would look to see if you have a video of the baptism and listen to see if Deacon Springer began the formula with the word "I" or "We". If you find that Deacon Springer had used the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit", we ask that you would let us know, so that all other children baptized on that day can be recorded as, also, receiving the Sacrament of Baptism validly. It seems most likely, that Deacon Springer began using an incorrect formula for Baptism, beginning around the year 1990 until 1999.

Obviously, many questions arise with the advent of this news. We, Fr. Jim and I, will do all we can to provide answers; yet, we may be limited in our ability to do so. Therefore, we have scheduled a **"Q&A Night with a Prayer Service" on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the church. Bishop Cepeda and some members from the chancery of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be present to answer questions.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has set up a special website, [aod.org/sacramentsupdate](http://aod.org/sacramentsupdate), with a letter from Archbishop Vigneron to the faithful, a list of frequently asked questions, and a form to request a phone call from a priest for those who have additional concerns or questions. I encourage all of you to visit that page and read the letter from Archbishop Vigneron and the frequently asked questions.

I ask that everyone would pray for those affected by this situation. I am very saddened. This is the most difficult announcement I have had to make as a priest, knowing how disappointed people will be in hearing this news for themselves or for their children and for others.

As always, we will continue in the journey, relying on Our Lord, Jesus to guide us and all those involved. As I do believe that God can make good out of all bad situations, I pray that hearts may come closer to Jesus and that those who would be baptized would be given a new vigor for Christ and their spiritual journey.

With the peace of Christ,

Fr. Steven Wertanen  
Pastor