

Silence continued...

A brief aside to note that staying through the postlude is always optional. After the final hymn, you are welcome to leave as soon as you are ready, mindful of those who choose to remain longer. Should you stay and then want to acknowledge the quality of our music, let me encourage the best practice of going in person to express your appreciation one on one. In both cases, let us leave in such a way that graciously considers those who may still be praying around us.

As we spend time in reflection, undergoing an intentional season of mindfulness and restraint, the arrival of Easter will feel all the more significant. With our Lenten pilgrimage still in mind, we can appreciate anew the wonderful music diligently prepared and provided for us while incorporating insights and practices gained in the quiet times ahead.

One of the blessings of parish life is the warmth shared between us, so please do not hear me suggest in any way that we ought to be cold or impolite. Rather, I'm encouraging us all, myself first and foremost, to take the seasonal shift as an opportunity to consider how we interact and spend the time in and around our worship. I'm inviting us to take advantage of the rhythms of worship and fellowship to more fully enjoy the benefits of both in the life of the church. I'm exhorting us to truly appreciate the sound of silence, quieting our minds and listening with our hearts for what may be found there: the still, small voice of God.

-Fr. Ben

News coverage of Fr. Ben's Installation:

<https://www.theintelligencer.com/news/article/Saint-Andrew-8217-s-welcomes-new-rector-15087486.php>

<https://www.episcopalspringfield.org/fr-benjamin-hankinson-installed-as-rector-of-st-andrews-edwardsville/>