

***From Father Kirby...***

**July 12, 2020**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The Church encourages us to draw closer to the Lord Jesus during this Ordinary Time. This is a blessed opportunity for us to hear the Gospel again and to reinvest in our discipleship. Today, the Lord gives us the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. He emphasizes the fragility of our discipleship and calls us to faithfulness and perseverance.

Some things happening around the parish:

The young families of our children's faith formation have been contacted by John Paul Boehling and told of our recent decision to run an on-line program this coming academic year. The arrangement of our building, which has our worship area, classrooms, and parish office all within one building (with shared bathrooms), does not allow us to ensure the necessary social distancing and sanitation that is required for an on-site program. This is matched by the uncertainty of what is coming in the Fall and a possible surge of the Coronavirus. These various considerations have led us to the decision for a digital program this year. We have a group of talented catechists who will be working with parents to make the program as edifying and formative as possible. This is not ideal. I wish we didn't have to do this type of program, but we want everyone to be safe and comfortable. It's my great hope that next year we will return to an on-site program. Please email me with any thoughts or questions.

Every Monday – Thursday, parishioners are leading the Rosary before Mass. This talented group of parishioners are called "Rosarians," and they need a few new members! The Rosarians are a "spiritual association," which means they have no meetings or other commitments beyond leading the Rosary. If you're interested in becoming a Rosarian, please email Barbara Bancker at: [bbbancker@yahoo.com](mailto:bbbancker@yahoo.com).

With my appointment as a Missionary of Mercy, I am called to make the sacrament of Reconciliation as available as possible. As a continuing action, I'm further extending our daily Confessions to include 7:00 – 8:00 PM on Mondays (with Adoration) and 12:45 – 1:30 PM on Wednesdays. Please make frequent use of this amazing sacrament by which the Lord Jesus purifies us of our sins and removes guilt from our souls.

This Sunday evening, I'll be in Aiken, South Carolina, for the First Mass of a young man I helped guide through the discernment process. Father Will Frei was ordained this past Friday evening and is one of our newest priests in the diocese. He is very talented and will be an asset to the mission of our diocese. Please remember him, and all the priests of the diocese, in your prayers!

This coming Thursday, July 16, is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We'll be blessing and investing people in the Brown Scapular at our Noon Mass. All are welcome!

Please note that the *Daily Briefing* is at 4 PM, Mondays – Thursdays on our [Grace Lily](#) page. This is a daily program to provide you with updates and explanations of what's happening here at the parish.

More updates next weekend. Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!