

From Father Kirby...

July 26, 2020

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As a Church, we walk through this Ordinary Time and once again hear the Gospel. With each new hearing, we are given an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the Lord Jesus and deepen in our discipleship. Are we trying every day to draw closer to the Lord? Are we allowing the Gospel to convict us and call us back to an ever-faithful friendship with him?

Today, in honor of the feast day of Saints Joachim and Ann, who are the grandparents of the Lord, we are offering a blessing to all our grandparents. We love you, grandparents, and we thank you for all the love and service you give to your families!

I'm grateful to Deacon Doc, who is preaching all the Sunday Masses this weekend! Thank you, Deacon!

As you came on campus today, you may have noticed the quote by Pope St. John Paul II on our entrance banner. This is the quote I gave in last Sunday's homily. It was from the saintly pope's address to the United Nations before the new millennium. I wanted to display that quote as a help to each of us, as we all try to be "witnesses to hope." In addition, starting this past week at daily Mass, we're adding an "Act of Hope" to our post-Mass devotional prayers. And so, we'll now pray the Saint Michael Prayer and the Act of Hope. We're offering this prayer as a particular supplication for hope in our hearts and in our society. As many of us can see, this virtue is immensely needed in our world today!

Some things happening around the parish:

As we enter our new fiscal year, you'll notice the new budgetary numbers on our weekly financial report. As I announced last Sunday, please be as generous as you're able with your tithe to the parish. This coming week, the Finance Council is meeting to review our past year, assess the new budget, and make any additional plans for a smooth and peaceful year. I'm grateful for their expertise and service to our community!

In speaking of our fiscal situation, we had to make some adjustments to our services, programs, and staff. Starting Monday, August 10, the Parish Office will close at 2:30 PM. Our new hours will be Monday – Thursday, 10 AM – 2:30 PM. As of August 12, Wednesday Adoration will conclude at 2:30 PM with Benediction. The staff is still readily available by email. Also, Marisa Clare and John Paul Boehling have left our professional staff. We wish them both the best as they pursue other endeavors.

Team Grace, we are living in difficult times, which are requiring us to make hard decisions and adjust things that we've worked diligently to build over the past few years. As we move forward, God will continue to bless our efforts and provide us with the consolation we need. Our task is to preserve hope, stay focused, and do our best in these times to persevere and triumph over the struggles and hurdles before us. These hardships will pass! A brighter future awaits us!

In an effort to fulfill my mandate as a Missionary of Mercy, I'll be adding new Confession times. Starting this Monday, Confessions will also be offered from 12:45 PM – 1:30 PM, Monday – Thursday. I pray that all of us avail ourselves of these necessary graces!

Tomorrow, July 27, is the anniversary of my priestly ordination. I ask for your prayers and spiritual solidarity!

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