

From Father Kirby...

November 15, 2020

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

This Sunday, I'll be returning to the theme of end-of-life care. These are pressing questions in our society and in our world. We will all – in one way or another - have to face these questions, and it's best to be informed and ready. In addition, this mini-series of homilies fits well with the overall observance of November as the month of the dead, as our beloved dead remind us that our life on this earth is not eternal. We will all die and we must be prepared.

For those who might be interested in additional resources, please reference my book, [*We Are the Lord's: A Catholic Guide to Difficult End-of-Life Questions.*](#)

Some things happening around the parish:

Congratulations, Team Grace! This past week, the Parish Excellence Summit, which assesses parish services nationwide, granted us the "Broadcasting Mass (Technical Excellence) Award"! In the runoff, we were chosen over Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York and Saint Monica's Parish in California. Both of these parishes have had livestream services for many years. Please note that we only set up our livestream at the beginning of the lockdown in mid-March! Bravo, Team Grace! Congratulations!!

Over the past several weeks, staff have been counting and observing our number of worshippers at Mass. With all the other rules of sanitation and social distancing in place, we are comfortable in now extending our worship number to 125 people per Mass. It's our hope that this will allow for less people to be turned away for worship, while still preserving a safe and sanitized environment for Mass.

Please note that all parishioners will have an opportunity to make (or renew) their [Consecration to Jesus through Mary](#) on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8). If you'd like to make (or renew) that Consecration, please be sure to make some form of preparation over the next few weeks.

This Tuesday, I'm happy to meet with our parish Finance Council for our regularly scheduled meeting. During the council meetings, we assess the financial health of the parish, assess goals for the future, and chart a realistic path for the parish. I'm grateful to the accountants, business people, banking professional, and lawyer from

our parish who serve our community in this specialized way. Thank you, Finance Council!

Our weekly Bible Study continues this Wednesday. This past Wednesday's live session was cut short when YouTube crashed. We recorded the second part on Thursday, and so the [entire lesson](#) is now available on Grace Lily. This week, we'll continue our walk through Genesis and discuss the Sin of Ham (Genesis 9:18-29). Please note that this will be our last session for this calendar year. We will be taking next week off because of Thanksgiving, and will pause the Bible Study for Advent. After this Wednesday, our next session will be January 6, 2021.

This Saturday, November 21, is our next [Formation Day](#). We'll be discussing the ways and methods of evangelization. The instruction is from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon and will be by livestream only. We will not have an in-person option. I hope everyone can tune in!

My new book, *Living in Peace*, will be released shortly. You might recall that the book is a modification of the homilies I gave during the lockdown this past Spring. If you're interested, you can order a copy of the book [here](#).

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