

*From Father Kirby...*

**December 13, 2020**

Happy Gaudete Sunday, Team Grace!

On this Third Sunday of Advent, Mother Church softens her penitential violet with a festive rose. The change of color marks the halfway phase of Advent and calls on us to intensify our preparation for the coming of the Lord. How is your preparation going? Are you readying your soul and your household to meet the Lord?

As part of the festive nature of Gaudete Sunday, we are permitted to have flowers in the sanctuary this weekend.

Thank you to everyone who participated in-person or by livestream in our [Anniversary Mass](#) on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Team Grace!

With the new vaccines coming out for COVID-19, many people are asking about the ethical status of these inoculations. Here is [the memo](#) on this issue from the Pro-Life Secretariat of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Some things happening around the parish:

This Sunday, we're happy to welcome Father Pat Cooper to the parish. Father Cooper will be celebrating all the Masses this weekend. *Welcome, Father Cooper!*

Please note that on Monday and Tuesday, December 14-15, we will not have Confessions or daily Masses at the parish. All of our regular devotional practices and our Adoration times will continue as usual.

This weekend and into early next week, I'll be visiting an old friend from college and the seminary. He's invited me to spend a few days at his parish in Savannah and to preach a Parish Mission for Advent. I look forward to these few days away as a time to rest, rejuvenate, and prepare my own soul for the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

As a reminder, our Wednesday Bible Study is on hiatus until January 6. All [previous sessions](#) can be viewed on our Grace Lily page.

As a note, Confessions will be heard after all the Masses next weekend, December 19-20. This is one additional opportunity for everyone to make a good Confession before Christmas!

As a help to your holiday planning, our [Masses for Christmas](#) will be celebrated on December 24 at 4 PM, 6 PM, and 8 PM, as well as on December 25 at 10 AM. All of the Christmas Masses will be livestreamed. There will be no children's choir or children's homily at the Masses this year. As usual, our Masses are limited to 125 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

As the holidays approach, many families will want to assist those in need. As a help, [here is a list](#) of our local community partners and their respective needs.

As mentioned before, I humbly request that our older parishioners remember the parish in their annual [Qualified Charitable Deduction](#). Thank you for your generosity and kindness!

Please read and review our [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Pandemic Protocols](#).

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