

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

**December 6, 2020**

Happy Second Sunday of Advent, Team Grace! Throughout this sacred season, we are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord Jesus. It's a time to assess our relationship with God, make some changes, and draw closer to him. How are we getting ourselves, and our families, ready to meet the Lord?

As a reminder, for our Sunday Masses during this liturgical year, we are hearing from Saint Mark's Gospel. I encourage you to make this gospel a part of your devotional life.

It's great to be back at the parish! My Parish Mission in Conway this past Monday and Tuesday went very well. While it's periodically good to go on mission and preach the Gospel, there is no place like home!

Some things happening around the parish:

This Sunday, we continue our homily series on the theological virtues. Last Sunday, I preached on theological faith. This Sunday, I'll be preaching on hope.

In response to our current homily series, a parishioner emailed me and asked where in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* they could find the theological virtues. I thought that was a great question! As a help to everyone, these virtues can be found in #1812-1829, 1840-1844. Happy studying!

With the end of November, the All Soul's envelopes have been moved to the altar in the rectory chapel. Throughout this year, I'll be saying prayers and offering Masses for your beloved dead.

This Tuesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Masses at the parish will be celebrated on December 7 at 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM, and on December 8 at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. The 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM Masses will be livestreamed.

The 7:00 PM Mass on December 8 is our Anniversary Mass, as we celebrate our fourth year as a canonical parish! The Mass will conclude with a bagpipe and candlelit procession from the church to the statue of Our Lady at the entrance of our campus. The statue will be crowned and Our Lady will once again be declared the Queen of our community.

Please note that we will *not* have our regular Noon Masses on December 7 and 8.

Please also note that ten minutes before every Immaculate Conception Mass, all parishioners will be invited to make (or renew) their Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Please be early to Mass if you want to make this consecration.

Please further note that Confessions will be available after all the Immaculate Conception Masses (except the 7 PM).

For further information on the other events of these days, please reference the [December 7 and 8 calendar](#).

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

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.

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.

My new book, *Living in Peace*, has been released by Our Sunday Visitor. Copies of the book can be purchased in the narthex before or after all the Masses this weekend, as well as after the Masses for the Immaculate Conception.

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)!