

*From Father Kirby...*

**January 1, 2021**

Happy Epiphany, Team Grace! This Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Magi and the “manifestation” (the “epiphany” in Greek) of the Lord Jesus to all the nations! Come, Lord Jesus!

Happy New Year! I think we all are joyfully wishing 2020 a heartfelt farewell! May this New Year be a time of peace, health, and wellbeing!

As Catholics, we mark the first day of the New Year with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. We ask her blessing and protection as we walk through 2021!

I’m grateful to everyone who participated in a Holy Day Mass either in-person or by livestream. If you missed Mass, it is still available on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

Thank you to everyone who generously sent me cards, gifts, and desserts for Christmas! It’s a tremendous joy to serve as your pastor, and your various acts of kindness are deeply appreciated! *Thank you!*

With the new vaccines coming out for COVID-19, many people are asking about the ethical status of these inoculations. Here is a [letter](#) from Bishop Guglielmone clarifying things for us.

In speaking of our Bishop, this past Wednesday (December 30), the Bishop gave his letter of resignation to the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Bishops are required to resign at 75 years old, and so - as our Bishop celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday - he issued his resignation letter. Bishop Guglielmone will remain with us until a new Bishop is named by the pope. *Please remember the Bishop in your prayers!*

Some things happening around the parish:

Tomorrow is First Saturday (January 2). We’ll have Confessions at 10:30 AM and our monthly Healing Mass (with the Anointing of the Sick) at 11:00 AM.

This weekend in the narthex, we’ll have copies of the Catholic Blessing of a Home. I encourage everyone to take a copy and bless your home for Epiphany. Yes, baptized Christians are able to bless their own homes. It is good to have a priest or deacon bless a home, but the baptized are able to do it. With the pandemic, I have restrictions on how often I can be in private homes and so

priestly blessings aren't possible until after the pandemic. Be sure, however, to take the sheet and to bless your home for the New Year!

An update on our professional staff: Anne Adams, who was serving as our Parish Secretary, has left the staff. We wish her the best on her future endeavors. With Anne's departure, we will reassign tasks to current staff and begin to train volunteers to help in the Front Office. I'm grateful to Linda Mitchell and Regina Smith for their willingness to be our first office volunteers! *Thank you, Linda and Regina!*

Please note that every Monday evening, we have a Parish Holy Hour and Confessions from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM. All are welcome!

Also, please note that our weekly Bible Study will resume this Wednesday. This week we'll talk about the famous post-Flood *Table of Nations* found in Genesis 10.

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)!