

From Father Kirby...

January 17, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, after all the holy days of the past several weeks, we enter into Ordinary Time. This is the liturgical season in which we rehear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus and are invited to once again declare our allegiance to him.

As an additional opportunity, Confessions will be heard after all the Masses this weekend. The parish is going to attempt to have Confessions after all the weekend Masses on the third weekend of every month. We're going to do this until March. After that, we'll review whether the opportunity serves a legitimate need.

For Ordinary Time, I'll be starting a five-week homily series on the biblical notion of mercy and our call to be a People of Mercy. I'm grateful to our parish Mercy Committee for their suggestions and guidance for these homilies.

After all the Masses this weekend, my new book from Our Sunday Visitor, *Way of the Cross for Loved Ones Who Have Left the Faith*, is available in the narthex. The devotional was written to be a spiritual resource to help get loved ones back to church.

Tomorrow, as a nation, we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, and all the Civil Rights Leaders in our nation's history. May their legacy and sacrifice convict us all, and call us all to greater racial harmony and social tranquility as a people.

In honor of the holiday, the church building and Parish Office will be closed. We will not have public Mass. All the events during the day are suspended. We will, however, still have the Holy Hour and Confessions on Monday evening from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. All are welcome!

This Wednesday, our new President will be sworn in. We pray for him and for his leadership of our country.

Some things happening around the parish:

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been able to give grants from our Charitable Fund. The parish gave a large grant to *HOPE in Lancaster*, *Culture of Life Africa*, as well as donations to some of our smaller sister parishes who are in great need of assistance.

Some of you may have noticed the improved landscaping around campus, as well as the new line of trees along the railway near the statue of Our Lady. These are a few initiatives we've taken to help beautify and enhance our campus.

Our weekly Bible Study continues this Wednesday. This week we'll talk about Noah to Abraham, as found in Genesis 11:10-32. Previous lessons can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

This coming Friday, January 22, we'll have a special Mass at 11:00 AM to mourn the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. During the Mass, we pray for the children lost to abortion, for the healing of parents involved in abortion, and for the overturning of this barbaric law on our country. The Mass will be livestreamed on Grace Lily. All are welcome! Confessions will be heard at 10:30 AM.

As a help to our spiritual lives, here are two digital retreat/conference opportunities:

From January 22–29, there is a [*Living Pro-Life: A Virtual Program of Apologetics and Formation for the New Pro-Life Generation*](#). The event is a wonderful opportunity to hear and learn some of the responses to the various false arguments of the culture of death. The event is free.

Also, there is the [*Winter Conference of the Escriva Institute*](#) on February 4-11. The conference this year is based on a homily by St. Josemaria Escriva (who's statue is in our parish church). The conference will emphasize the ways in which we can find God in the richness of ordinary life. The event is free.

As a reminder, 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)!