

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

**March 14, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we reach the middle of Lent. The Church observes this half-way point with Laetare “Rejoice” Sunday. In observance of this special Sunday, the Church closes herself in rose, a tempered violet, and allows for flowers to be in the sanctuary. If your Lent has been particularly good, then keep fighting the good fight! If your Lent has been soft or weak, then this Sunday is an opportunity to start over. Either way, be sure to make Lent a time to grow and deepen in your discipleship.

As I wrote last week in my column, a new law is being proposed in our Congress. It is called the “Equality Act,” but it has nothing to do with equality. It is an attempt to legislate an aggressive attack on houses of worship and faith-based organizations who do not support the LGBTQ+ movement. As Christians, we must make our voices heard. Please visit [this link](#) for action items. Also, [here is a link](#) to a recent homily I gave on the Equality Act.

Some things happening around the parish:

Today, March 14, is the twenty-eighth day of preparation for our Consecration to Saint Joseph. I hope you have found the preparation book helpful! Personally, I have drawn many points and lessons from the book. As March 19 approaches *this Friday*, I pray every parishioner makes this powerful Consecration. Our Mass that evening will be at 7:00 PM. We are bringing in a trumpeter and bagpiper - Saint Joseph deserves the best! The Mass that evening will also be livestreamed on Grace Lily.

Our Lenten homily series on the Ten Commandments continues this Sunday. We continue with the “second tablet” of the moral law, which pertains to our relationship with our neighbors. Today, we’ll be covering the Sixth and Ninth Commandments: “Do not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; [Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2331-2400](#)); and, “Do not covet your neighbor’s wife” (Exodus 20:17; Matthew 5:28; [Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2514-2533](#)).

Every Tuesday, I give a Weekly Briefing at 4:00 PM. In the review, I give a broader summary of events and developments here at the parish. All parishioners are invited to tune in live, or to watch the Briefing later at their convenience on Grace Lily.

This Wednesday, our weekly Bible Study continues. We’ll discuss the mysterious and powerful figure of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-24). After this Wednesday, the study will go on a three-week hiatus for the holy days. It will resume on Wednesday,

April 14. As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

For Lent this year, our Stations of the Cross will be prayed via livestream. Every Friday at 6:00 PM, the Stations will be available on [Grace Lily](#). Parishioners and families are invited to pray the Stations at that hour, or later when they're able.

Please note our [Holy Week schedule](#). With the pandemic, our sequence of holy days is a little different this year.

For those who might be interested, I have a new book being published this week. This is my first book with [Catholic Answers](#), which is a great resource for Catholic theology and answers to questions about the Faith. The new book is entitled, [\*Real Worship: How to Avoid False Faith and Worship God in Spirit and Truth\*](#).

As a reminder, every Sunday, I write a spirituality column on Crux. If anyone is interested, [here is the link](#) to the weekly columns.

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)!