

*From Father Kirby...*

**May 2, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we continue our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, we now begin our preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Easter Season yearns for the coming of the Spirit! Each of us should likewise pine for the Holy Spirit and petition for his work in our lives!

As a reminder, the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady. Please remember to pray the Rosary or some other Marian devotion this month!

This weekend, we continue our homily series on the Creed. This weekend, we'll start the third part of the Creed. I'll be preaching on the Holy Spirit and the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, # [683-975](#)).

As the first weekend of the month, Confessions will be heard after all our regular Masses this weekend (Saturday 4:00 and 5:30 PM and Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 AM).

Some things happening around the parish:

As announced in our [Weekly Briefing](#), we received approval from the Vicar General to pursue our purchase of [Catholic Land](#)! This is a huge step forward! Now, our Director of Operations will continue his work with the evaluative and legal process with the General Counsel of the diocese. I'll provide more updates as they occur.

We welcome Melissa Mikulak as our new Business Manager. Melissa has a degree in actuarial science and comes to us from Bank of America. She will supervise our Business Office (Bookkeeper and Assistant Bookkeeper), manage our Safe Environment and Human Resource programs, facilitate contracts with contractors and vendors, and coordinate all other areas of our business administration. Our Business Manager will work under the supervision of our Director of Operations.

As previously announced, we have a pending application for a grant with the Our Sunday Visitor Institute. As a spiritual response to this application, we'll offer a parish Novena to Saint Therese from May 2-10. As the patron saint of missionary work, we ask Saint Therese to intercede for our intention!

Speaking of Grace Lily, please note the new office dividers around the sound board. The dividers are there to help the staff focus on the videography and livestream services. Please do not interrupt or distract the staff while they're performing these important tasks on our behalf.

Our Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We'll discuss the Covenant of Circumcision (Genesis 17). As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

After some consultation, I've decided to keep our Thursday Noon Masses at the Columbarium in perpetuity. They will remain at the Columbarium past the Easter Season as a weekly opportunity for us to pray and offer the Mass for our beloved dead. All are welcome! Please review the [Outdoor Mass Notes](#).

For Thursdays, we will no longer offer Confession times after the daily Mass. Instead, we'll have a weekly outdoor fellowship after the Thursday Mass and Mercy Chaplet. All are welcome!

For Pentecost (May 22-23), there will be many changes to our church building and pandemic protocols. I'll write of them next week, but they can all be heard on our recent [Weekly Briefing](#).

I'd like to remind everyone of our new website for our livestream service, Grace Lily Productions. Visit [the website here](#)! In particular, please visit the [Grace Lily store](#) and consider purchasing some items in support of our livestream outreach!

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)!