

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

**May 30, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday. On this solemnity, we celebrate the mystery of God himself, namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The feast day reminds us of God's majesty and splendor and how blessed we are to be called into communion with him.

This weekend, we also remember those who have died in defense of our freedoms. We solemnly observe this Memorial Day and ask God to give eternal rest to the fallen members of our Armed Forces.

In observance of the holiday, the church building and Parish Office will be closed this Monday (May 31). We will, however, have a Memorial Day Mass and Blessing of a Memorial Wreath starting at 11:00 AM. All other activities are cancelled except the evening Holy Hour and Confessions. Please join us for this hour of prayer from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Some things happening around the parish:

As announced last week, the dispensation from Mass will end on June 5. [Here's a letter](#) from our Bishop announcing this decision. Here's a [helpful Q-and-A](#) from the Bishop's Office.

Last week, the Bishop's Office also sent widespread permissions to discontinue pandemic restrictions. I was able to review these with our parish operations staff. Starting June 5-6, here are some additional changes for our parish:

- There will be no hand gel in the narthex as you come in. Please use gel at your own discretion.
- Our three stations for the distribution of Holy Communion will now have the normal two lines and will each distribute Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand.
- Masks will not be worn by those distributing Holy Communion.
- In general, masks are not required, but welcome.
- The ropes at any remaining Masses will be taken down and no longer used.
- The Offertory Procession will be reinstated at the 9 AM and 11 AM Sunday Masses.
- For now, the Offertory Box will remain in the narthex.

- The “Act of Hope” after the Saint Michael Prayer at the end of Mass will be suspended.

As we begin to return to normal, *the focus of the parish will be to re-start our parish-wide activities first*. This may take us a year since we need to evaluate staff coverage, review where we are with volunteer leaders, and assess the practicals of how we can begin to bring people back into regular activities at the parish.

As so, in assessing the coming program year and our current need for additional staff, I’ve decided that we will resume Middle School faith formation and High School youth group in September. The elementary grades will resume in January. This process allows us to build our volunteer base again, find a new Director of Christian Formation, and prepare the church building for full use. I ask for your patience and understanding!

Our weekly parish Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We’ll discuss the Moabites and Ammonites (Genesis 19:30-38). As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

Next Sunday is Corpus Christi. Our 11:00 AM Mass will be a festive celebration in honor of the high feast day. The Mass will conclude with a few minutes of Adoration and then a Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. All are invited!

The process for the purchase of [Catholic Land](#) continues. It appears the contract may be ready for signature on July 1! I’ll keep the parish informed as things move forward.

Please note the July [Rachel Vineyard’s Retreat](#) that will be held in our diocese. Any mother or father who has gone through an abortion is encouraged to attend one of these healing retreats! Please contact me if financial assistance is needed.

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

Please be sure to read and review our revised and updated [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Protocols](#).

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let’s pray for one another)!