

From Father Kirby...

May 9, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Our Easter Season continues as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus!

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers! We love you and are grateful for all you do for your families and our society! God bless you! *Happy Mother's Day!*

This weekend, we continue our homily series on the Creed. Deacon Doc will preach on baptism and the forgiveness of sins (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #976 – 987*).

In preparation for the celebration of Pentecost (May 22-23), when all the baptized are asked to wear red to worship, we will be selling red Grace Lily shirts after all the Masses this weekend. Please purchase one in support of Grace Lily!

Some things happening around the parish:

We received an update on our grant application with Our Sunday Visitor Institute. Regrettably, we were not selected for a grant this year. We wish the recipients all the best as they pursue the good work of the Lord, and we will watch to see what they did so that we can learn some new traits and apply again next year! As a parish, we will still complete our Novena to Saint Therese (ending May 10), but now offer it in thanksgiving for the recipients of the grant.

Our digital Children's Faith Formation concluded this past week. I'm grateful to all the families who participated in the program. We're currently assessing what we can do for next year. More details will follow.

Our weekly parish Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We'll discuss God's Visitation to Abraham (Genesis 18:1-15). This is one of the more mystical portions of the Old Testament. As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

Next Sunday, May 16, at the 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have our annual May Crowning. I'm pleased to have Eileen Davies do the crowning this year. Eileen is very active in our homebound ministry. Thank you, Eileen!

Please also note that next Sunday, May 16, will be our last Sunday Outdoor Mass. After May 16, we will no longer have a 12:30 PM Sunday Mass.

For Pentecost (May 22-23), there will be many changes to our church building and pandemic protocols. With the clarification from the CDC that COVID-19 is not passed via surface touch, our changes will include:

- The ropes will be taken down at the 9:00 AM Mass. The ropes will remain at our two Saturday evening Masses until later in the summer.
- Hymnals will be restored to the pews. Please note the hymn numbers on the hymn boards near the altar.
- Our holy water fonts will be restored to the entrances of the worship area.
- The vigil candles near Our Lady and Saint Joseph will be available again for devotional use.
- Prayers can be offered in the church after the Masses.
- We will no longer wipe down the pews after the Masses and the church building will be open between Masses.
- The Quiet Room will be open, but only accessible through the worship area.

These are some of our initial changes. Others will follow in the course of time as we work to restore everything back to a greater sense of “normal.”

On Pentecost, all the faithful are asked to wear red. As the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles and Our Lady as tongues of fire (talk about red!), so the baptized are asked to wear red on that feast day.

Some developments on the purchase of [Catholic Land](#)! The General Counsel of the diocese has approved a local attorney that will assist us with the process. Things continue to move forward. I’ll give more updates as they occur.

This past week, a few parishioners reached out about the recent homily on the police. For those who are interested, here’s the link: [In Defense of Our Police](#).

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)!