

From Father Kirby...

December 19, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today, we begin the last week of Advent. Our time of preparation must deepen – the Lord draws near! Are we ready?

Some things happening around the parish:

This past Friday, December 17, my father – retired First Sergeant Alan Joseph Kirby, Jr. – passed into eternal life. It was a peaceful death surrounded by faith, family, and love. Amidst numerous accomplishments, my father’s life is best summarized by the love he showed to his wife and children. He took his vocation as a father very seriously. As such, he was my mentor, my coach, my hero, and I already deeply miss him. For the coming week, I’ll be away on Monday-Wednesday, December 20-22 for my father’s Wake and Funeral Mass. There are no Confessions or daily Masses here at the parish on these days. *All our devotions, the Rosary, and our Adoration time will still take place.*

As previously scheduled, the Parish Office and church building are closed on Thursday, December 23. There is no public Mass or Confessions and no devotionals that day.

For those interested and able to attend, Ryan Kubic will send the Wake and Funeral Mass information to the parish family once it’s confirmed by my home parish in Columbia.

Thank you to our Saint Cecilia Girls’ Choir for leading us in sacred song this Sunday at our 11:00 AM Mass.

Although Christmas falls on a Saturday, it is still a Holy Day of Obligation. Our parish Mass schedule is Friday, December 24: 4:00 PM (with the Children’s Choir); 6:00 PM (with the Girls Choir); 8:00 PM; and 10:00 PM. On Christmas Mass, Saturday, December 25, Mass at 10:00 AM.

With Christmas on a Saturday, believers are expected to be at the Holy Day and at the regular Sunday Mass. Yes, we are blessed to participate in two Masses: one for Christmas as a Holy Day of Obligation and one for our regular weekend worship as Christians.

The week after Christmas, December 27-30, the Parish Office and church building are closed. The parish staff are all on vacation. There is no public Mass or Confessions and no devotionals on these days.

Please note that the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Since it is still a Holy Day, we will still have Mass at 11:00 AM on that day. Since this is also the First Saturday, the Mass will be our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick.

The parish is very happy to offer a special Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Washington, DC. [More information can be found here.](#)

As we near the end of the tax year, and as our current capital campaign comes to a close in February, please be as generous as possible to the campaign. The current campaign will provide the fiscal resources to begin building our prayer garden and columbarium on Catholic Land.

The professional staff continue to review some of our ideas and suggestions for [Catholic Land](#) as we prepare for the Spring Town Hall meetings when the Master Plan will be presented and proposed to the entire parish.

Please note that our electronic newsletter is now sent out on Saturdays between 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

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)!

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