

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

**December 26, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Merry Christmas!!

As Christians, we know that Christmas is the celebration of the Lord's holy Birth. It is so holy that it is an entire season, not only one day. Christmas begins on December 25 and continues until the Epiphany, when the Magi visit the Christ Child. Christmas is one of the seasons of the Church's liturgical year. And so, don't cut your Christmas short! Continue celebrating the Lord's birth and his active presence among us!

In the Christmas season we celebrate this Sunday of the Holy Family, which is our Lord's earthly family of Joseph and Mary. The feast day highlights the sacredness of the family and reminds us that every family is gathered together and named by God (see Ephesians 3:15).

Some things happening around the parish:

Thank you to everyone who came to the Wake or participated in the Funeral Mass of my father. It was a solemn time of prayer and supplication. Thank you for being there with my family. Your presence was a blessing and consolation.

This coming week, Monday-Thursday, 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.

Our parish Bible Study, High School Formation Program, and Middle School Formation Program are all on hiatus until Wednesday, January 12.

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

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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