

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

**May 29, 2022**

Happy Easter, Team Grace!

This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and begin the concluding portion of the Easter Season. In the Lord's Ascension, our human nature – body and soul - is raised and united to his divine nature. In Jesus Christ, we have an inheritance to eternal life!

This weekend as a nation, we remember all those who gave their lives in defense of our freedoms. We pray for the repose of their souls and for God's continued blessings upon the United States of America.

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration for this coming First Friday and First Saturday, June 3-4.

This Sunday, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday around 12:15 PM. All are welcome!

Some things happening around the parish:

This Sunday, around 10:15 AM, we will show a thirty-minute video in the church on the Servant of God Emil Kapaun. Father Kapaun is currently on the path to sainthood. He was a war hero and a model of Christian charity and selfless service. He died in a Korean POW camp while serving fellow prisoners of war. He is the most decorated military chaplain in US history and is someone we should all strive to know. Please plan to come and watch this informative and encouraging video.

All are invited and strongly encouraged to come and join us for our Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 30, at 11:00 AM. The Mass will be offered for all our service members who died protecting our nation and its freedoms. The Mass will be followed by a bagpipe procession to the columbarium for the playing of taps, a blessing of a Memorial Wreath, and the singing of patriotic songs. *All are welcome!*

On Monday, May 30, the church and Parish Office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. All events during the day are suspended, however, we will still have our evening Holy Hour and Confessions from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. There will be a guest priest presiding at the Holy Hour and hearing Confessions.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

As I mentioned last weekend, the Archbishop of San Francisco has banned the current Speaker of the House of Representatives from receiving Holy Communion because of her staunch support of abortion. [Here is a link](#) for any parishioner who would like to express their support to the Archbishop and join in prayers for him.

Please note that our parish Bible Study, High School Formation program, and Middle School Formation program have all concluded for the year. They will resume in the early Fall.

This coming Friday, June 3, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. Confessions will be heard from after Mass until Midnight. There will be a guest priest hearing Confessions.

This Saturday, June 4, Confessions will be heard from 9:30 – 10:30 AM. Our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

This coming week, I'll be away on vacation from May 31 – June 5. I'll be in Columbia spending time with my mom and extended family. I'm happy to welcome Father Colin Blatchford back to Our Lady of Grace. Father Blatchford will cover all Masses, Confession times, and devotionals while I'm away. The complete parish schedule remains the same for these days. I'll be back for our Sunday morning Masses on June 5.

Next weekend is Pentecost, the traditional "birthday of the Church." Our 11:00 AM Mass will be a festive celebration with extra instrumentalists and vocalists. All are welcome to come to this Mass for an elevated celebration of Pentecost.

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

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

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