

From Father Kirby...

July 24, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

The Church continues to take us through Ordinary Time. As a parish, we are using this time to review the various sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Eucharist. This is a part of our parish's observance of the National Eucharistic Revival.

In honor of Saints Joachim and Ann, the grandparents of our Lord, we are offering a special blessing to all grandparents at our Masses this weekend! The feast day of the couple is July 26.

It's my sad duty to report that the Sisters of Saint Michael will not be coming to our parish, as we had hoped. As details were being finalized with the Order, our partnership ended up not being possible at this time. Like many of you, I am very disappointed by these developments. As we move forward, I will continue to search for Religious Sisters and hope one day to welcome Sisters to the parish.

As a way to honor the donations that have been made to the "Support Our Sisters" collection, the total amount received will be donated to the Sisters of Saint Michael in support of their mission and ministries throughout the Church. Anyone who might prefer to receive their donations back, however, is asked to contact me directly. We're happy to reimburse any donations that were made to the Sisters.

This Sunday, July 24, at 12:15 PM, we have our parish summer Ice Cream Social. We're going to have ice cream, whip cream, candies, and other toppings. It's going to be ice cream galore! All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Thank you to everyone who signed up to give blood this Sunday. Your kindness is a great blessing to our broader community!

Some things happening around the parish:

With the Sisters not coming to our parish, we are doing an urgent re-shifting of staff duties. In particular, our Administrator Ryan Kubic is taking on more operations duties, while John Paul Rusciolelli is being re-titled "Director of Ministries." John Paul will now assist in the administrative and logistical set-ups of pending ministries at the parish.

Despite not having the Sisters come, the parish will still launch its Children's Faith Formation program on Wednesday, September 7. Registrations are now being taken in the Front Office for Children's Faith Formation, as well as Middle School and High School Formation programs. Here are the registration forms: [Kindergarten to 5th Grade](#); [6th Grade to 8th Grade](#); [9th Grade to 12th Grade](#). There are also copies in the office. All children who are signed up must be from families who are registered at the parish. As a sign of our commitment to Christian formation, there is no fee for the program.

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir. All girls and young women of the parish are invited to be a part of the choir!

On Wednesday, July 27, our daily Mass will be at 7:00 PM. The Mass will be in honor of my 15th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. While it's difficult to personally celebrate anything this year, as my family and I grieve the loss of my father, I realize this is about the priesthood and merits to be publicly celebrated. And so, we turn to the altar together. It will be a consolation to celebrate this anniversary with each of you, my parish family. I pray many of you can join me for this Mass.

Please note our new [calendar for the program year 2022/2023](#) is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all of our events and programs for the coming year.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

Next weekend, July 30-31, we have our monthly sign-ups for Nocturnal Adoration. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to participate in this all-night prayer vigil of our parish!

In observance of the National Eucharistic Revival, our parish will host a display of the Church's Eucharistic Miracles on August 13-14. The display will be held in the Parish Hall and will be available after all our weekend Masses.

Please note that the obligation for the Solemnity of the Assumption (August 15) is lifted this year. The holy day falls on a Monday, and so the Church dispenses from the obligation to participate in Mass. As such, we will only have our regular Noon Mass on August 15. All are welcome!

I'm happy to announce that next summer, June 2023, I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. Here's an [invitatory video](#). And here's [the link](#) to the

website with more information. Please note this is not a parish pilgrimage. I am taking this pilgrimage on vacation time and inviting others to join me. Other friends and supporters will come from other parts of the country and be a part of the pilgrimage.

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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