

From Father Kirby...

September 25, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

We've fully entered the Fall season. Things are busy. The pace of life has increased. It's easy to get distracted. As Christians, we have to pause and give our first attention to our faith and our walk with the Lord Jesus. The season of Ordinary Time is an opportunity to go deeper and to recommit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday, we welcome back our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir. The choir will lead our 11:00 AM Mass in sacred music. Thank you, young women, for your service to the Lord and to our parish!

This weekend in the narthex, the parish is once again giving out FREE copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. If you do not already have a copy, please take a copy home today. It's our great hope that every Catholic family will have a Bible and a copy of the *Catechism* in their home.

Some things happening around the parish:

I'll be away with the Bishop and the priests of the diocese for our annual diocesan Priest Retreat this coming Monday-Thursday, September 26-29. We will not have public Mass or Confessions on these days. All other events – the Rosary, Novenas, Adoration, and formation sessions - will still take place. Please stay active in the public prayers of our parish!

This coming Saturday, October 1, is First Saturday. This is one of those peculiar months in which our First Friday and First Saturday are separated. *Please note that we will not have our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday. Our Adoration will be on the First Friday of October, which is next Friday, October 7.* Our monthly First Saturday observances, however, will be this Saturday (October 1). Confessions are from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM. The Healing Mass will be at 11:00 AM.

Next Sunday, October 2, we will have our annual Blessing of Pets at 2:00 PM. All pets – however large or small – are welcome!

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:

Our First Friday Mass will be on Friday, October 7, at 7:00 PM. The Mass will be followed by our Nocturnal Adoration from 8:00 PM until 10:30 AM the next day, October 8.

On Saturday, October 8, we will have Confessions from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM and a second Healing Mass of the month at 11:00 AM. Yes, Team Grace, we will have two Healing Masses this month!

On Sunday, October 9, the parish will have a Rosary Procession before our 11:00 AM Mass. *All parishioners are invited to come.* It's requested that everyone please come around 10:45 AM so that the procession can begin promptly at 11:00 AM. This is a beautiful way to honor Our Lady and her powerful rosary! Please come and bring your favorite rosary with you!

On the weekend of October 15-16, the parish will host a Food Drive. All of the collected foods will go to [HOPE in Lancaster](#). We are only collecting three food items: cereal, boxed stuffing, and spaghetti sauce (in plastic bottles – please no glass).

On Sunday, October 16, we will host a blood bus from [One Blood](#). Sign-ups are required for blood donations. Please [register here](#). As a pro-life people, I ask all parishioners to please consider giving blood. There is an urgent need for blood in our immediate area! Please sign up!

I'm happy to welcome [Father Dwight Longenecker](#) to the parish on Saturday, October 29, for a mini-retreat from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The title of the retreat is: "Prayer, Healing, and Our Lady's Rosary." No registrations are needed. All are welcome!

We've been able to reschedule our Ferris Wheel and Merry-Go-Round to Sunday, November 6. We're adding a few other activities and are calling the event the "All Saints Festival!" More details will follow soon!

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 Pandemic Protocols](#).

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

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