

*From Father Kirby...*

**October 2, 2022**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

The Church uses the season of Ordinary Time to call all believers to a recommitment to the Lord Jesus. This is the time to be reminded of our sacred teachings and to once again declare Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives.

It's good to be back! The priest retreat was rejuvenating, but it's good to be home!

As you enter our worship place this weekend, you'll notice the ceiling above the tabernacle and altar have been painted blue. Called "Mary's Mantle," the work emphasizes the holiness of the altar area. I'm grateful to our donor who made this possible.

This weekend in the narthex, we have our signs-ups for Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, October 7-8. Please be generous with your time and sign up for an hour of prayer!

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

As a reminder, I'd like to encourage every family in the parish to register for [FORMED](#). This is a free digital platform with family friendly content.

Some things happening around the parish:

The Bishop has called a meeting of the former Presbyteral Council on Tuesday morning, October 4. I was a member of this council and will need to attend this meeting. As such, we will not have Confessions during the Holy Hour on Monday and Tuesday we will not have Confessions or public Mass here at the parish.

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!

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:

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!

During our Rosary Procession, we will also bless our new statue of Saint Joseph in front of the rectory!

As a Papal Missionary of Mercy, I'm periodically asked to give missions or retreats. I try to keep these at a minimum. My next Mercy Mission, however, will be on October 10 – 14. I'll be giving a Parish Mission at Saint Helen's Parish in Georgetown, Texas. While I'm away, we will not have Confessions or public Mass. All other prayer and formation events will still take place. Be sure to participate in the life of our parish!

On Monday evening, October 10, at 6:30 PM, we'll have our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the faith. All are invited to come and pray for their loved ones who have left the Church.

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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