

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The month of June is always a busy month in parishes and schools. Here is what is going on in these days.

This past Friday, we had the graduation Mass for St. Patrick's School Class of 2017. We wish our graduates well and ask the Lord's blessings upon them. May the Lord protect all of the children of the parish and all of the graduates of all schools.

This Saturday, we have the Mass marking 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversaries in the parish. It is so important to mark those milestones and ask for God's blessings on all married couples and their families. God bless those preparing for the sacrament of Matrimony too! It is no secret that the sacrament of matrimony is not celebrated as often as it should be. In fact, marriage is celebrated far less often nowadays, either civil or religious. Customs and religious practice are changing rapidly, often not for the better.

Today, we pray for all Fathers. Happy Father's Day! I often think of how Italy celebrates Father's Day on or near St. Joseph's Day because the role of a father is so extremely important, as was the role of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family. God bless all dads who are meant to be guardians of their families. May the Lord help them and bless them in their God-given role. St. Joseph, pray for all Fathers!

Finally, today is also the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi Sunday. It is a central truth of our Catholic faith that Jesus gives us himself in the Eucharist. His Body and Blood saved us from sin and death on the cross and Jesus wants us to have that strength and grace always. As we participate in the celebration of the Mass, we experience the power of God's saving love and the spiritual nourishment that Jesus wants us to have in the Blessed Sacrament.

After the 12:30 Mass today, we will have a simple yet profound procession to two altars on the property and then back to the Main Church for special prayers and benediction. We want to lift the sacrament before the world so that we never forget God's closeness and care for us. The sacrament of the Eucharist is the source and high point of our Faith because of Jesus' saving sacrifice. We are never without God's grace.

This is also the month of the Sacred Heart which carries the same message as the Eucharist. The Heart of Jesus is open to all the world and shows us the depth of God's love for us.

We have so many things to think about and celebrate. So many things for which we thank the Lord! May we be forever grateful!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.