

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

There are several issues which I would like to bring to everyone's attention. At this time, we are in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. I have a feeling we Christians do not pray that often for this intention but, especially in the world today, it is important to remain united as Christians and committed to living and witnessing the Gospel message to others. The various Christian denominations do not agree on every aspect of the faith but they do agree on many issues and all Christians share one Baptism. Even in the early times of the Church there were factions and disagreements, which is probably why Jesus prayed that "They all may be one," even before He was crucified. If all Christians could face anti-Christian and anti-religious discrimination and persecution in a united fashion, it would at least make others realize that Christians are one of the largest groups in the world (numbering over 2 billion people) and we stand up together for religious freedom and the right to publicly practice one's faith. Please pray that we may all be one family in Christ.

On another note, January 22nd is set aside as the annual Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The March for Life in Washington, D.C. was switched to Friday, January 19th this year, but the 22nd is always the official day to ask all Catholics (Christians) for special prayers and even acts of penance for a greater respect of every human person, born and unborn. The legal battles to respect life are formidable and growing more challenging with every passing day, but we can continue to do our part even in small ways. Even if laws do not change, we can hope and pray that Jesus will change hearts to be more like His.

Finally, I ask for special prayers for all of our second graders who are preparing for First Penance in these days. There is probably a little trepidation on on their part (and the part of their parents) but usually it is a joyful day in spite of some nerves because these children know the Lord forgives their sins. We thank God for them and for the Faith we all share and seek to live every day.

God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.