

# From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Parishioners,

One of the things that intrigues me tremendously is the sacrifices that my Parents and Grandparents made to provide for their children and grandchildren. It is my belief that each generation attempts to make the appropriate sacrifices to make the world a better place for the next generation. The sacrifices of my parents and Grandparents were unbelievable. Can you imagine getting on a ship as a teenager, without family or friends, and traversing an ocean to arrive in a country you have never visited? Imagine how hard it was for our ancestors to navigate their way through life. If it weren't for the sacrifices of our Parents and Grandparents, we would not have the blessings we often take for granted today. I believe our Holy Father recognizes the incredible contributions that Grandparents and the elderly provide in our world, and for that reason, chose to promulgate a date on our liturgical calendar to provide an array of prayers and recognition for the blessings they provide.

The Holy Father has declared the Fourth Sunday of July, each year, to be commemorated as World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and Older People. He wants this event to be experienced as a moment of celebration involving all generations. It is not a matter simply of happiness, but of joy born from the knowledge that the Lord is close to the lives of the elderly as well as the young, for God is with us always.

The decision to hold a World Day for Grandparents and Older People has come at a time marked by a pandemic and by the suffering of our older generations in recent months in every part of the world. Reports of elderly people having to die alone and then not even being given a funeral, have been a cause of deep pain to the Church. To be unable to be close to those who suffer is at odds with a Christian's calling to show compassion. This World Day is an opportunity to reaffirm that the Church can never remain distant from those who carry a cross. The theme chosen by the Holy Father, "I am with you always", clearly expresses that, during the pandemic and in the

better times that will hopefully follow, every ecclesial community wishes to be with the elderly always.

The annual celebration of a day dedicated to older people is a way of incorporating attention for the frail elderly into the routine fabric of our pastoral work. Pope Francis identifies the task of the elderly to keep memories alive and to transmit the faith to the younger generations, but, more importantly, he considers them to be a significant component of the Catholic laity. They are not simply 'users' of the Church, but they are also companions on the journey. This World Day is a message addressed to the elderly in which the Holy Father asks them to share responsibility for the way the Church will go in the future and to take part in the construction of the world after the pandemic.

This first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is being celebrated midway through the year dedicated to family by the Holy Father on the fifth anniversary of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). This is a deliberate choice that stems from awareness of how the elderly – all the elderly, including those who are not grandparents – need a family environment in which to live, and how it is necessary for families to become aware of the role being played by their older members. In a globalized world, the relationship between the elderly and families is no longer taken for granted, but is, on the contrary, constantly being called into question.

By isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and of wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own.

This complex scenario (the pandemic, the search for a new leading role for the elderly, and the crisis in family relations), in addition to the need to help people avoid discouragement and despondency, has led the Church to choose a simple way of celebrating Seniors and young people together: parents and children; grandparents and grandchildren; people who may not belong to the same family.

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The Church is aware of the need for reconciliation between generations and of the difficulties experienced by older people, but blame is not attached to the failings of anyone. The way chosen is to have an occasion of joyful celebration together.

May this World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly be a festivity filled with the joy of the Gospel for all! Today we shall offer a special remembrance during all of our Masses in thanksgiving for the sacrifices that previous generations have provided; to pray for our Grandparents and elderly parishioners; and to especially our elderly and infirmed parishioners that find themselves alone and lonely.

With a loving and grateful heart,

Msgr. Marucci, VF, Pastor

(Note: some excerpts of this article were taken from a commentary written by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (Vatican), and Rev. Alexandre Awi Mello, I. Sch. who serves as the secretary for the Dicastery. (Used with permission).

## *Our Mass of Inclusion is back!*

The 2nd Saturday of every month at the 4:00 pm Mass (that's Aug. 14 in case you're interested). We celebrate people with special needs and their gifts.



### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil** 4:00 pm  
**Sunday** 8:00 am, 10:00 am, & 6:00pm

### DAILY MASS

Monday - Saturday 8:00 am  
Adoration after Mass

**CONFESSION Saturday** at 3:15 pm

**ADORATION** Every Wed 7pm

Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Assumption  
Friday, August 6th to Sunday, August 15th.

Please join us as we celebrate the  
Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
with a beautiful Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Assumption.

The Novena will be prayed following the 8:00 am Mass.

I offer our Blessed Mother the following intention. The novena candle will burn

In Memory of / In Honor of (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Living       Deceased      (One name per request please)

Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

-Or- My Special Intention is: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Parish Office. Suggested candle offering is \$10.00.

Kindly print and submit this form to the parish office c/o Jane Palandro.  
You may also email her with your info at [jpalandro@churchofstandrews.org](mailto:jpalandro@churchofstandrews.org) on or before Aug 5.

