

## RECLAIMING SUNDAY FOR THE LORD

*Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL*



It is a new year, and we most likely have new resolutions. May I suggest you add another one to your list? The one I think many of us need to work on this year is reclaiming Sunday for the Lord. Phrased in another way, let's work on the third commandment during this year.

For several years we have been counting how many people attend Mass during the month of

November. I shared some observations about the results on Lines of Faith a few weeks ago. During the years 2017, 2018, and 2019, our numbers were stable. In 2020 we did not count people because we were just reopening our churches, and space was limited. In 2021 we resume our headcount, and we saw a decrease of 25% in Mass attendance. That is a lot! In practical terms that means that every weekend we have about 650 fewer people at Mass.

As your pastor I find that troublesome. I have been entrusted with the souls of everyone in the parish, those who come to Mass, and those who do not. My duty in this case is to make sure that everyone is well instructed in our obligations as Catholics; that includes coming to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. So here we go. Let's review the third commandment.

**Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God. You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your work animal, or the resident alien within your gates.** (Ex. 20:8-10)

We Christians observe Sunday as the Day of the Lord, the new sabbath day, because that is the day in which Our Lord Resurrected, the day in which Our Lord ushers the new creation. Saint Ignatius of Antioch said, "Those who lived according to the old order of things have come to a new hope,

no longer keeping the sabbath, but the Lord's Day, in which our life is blessed by him and by his death."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "The celebration of Sunday observes the moral commandment inscribed by nature in the human heart to render to God an outward, visible, public, and regular worship "as a sign of his universal beneficence to all." (St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, 2-2, q. 122, a. 4) Sunday worship fulfills the moral command of the Old Covenant, taking up its rhythm and spirit in the weekly celebration of the Creator and Redeemer of his people." (CCC 2176) In summary, the third commandment requires that we attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. The Church allows us to fulfill our obligation by going to Mass the prior evening.

But attending Mass is only one part of observing the Sabbath, albeit the most important. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Just as God "rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done," (Gen. 2:2) human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord's Day helps everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives." (CCC 2184) It adds, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health." (CCC 2185)

In other words, relaxing on Sundays is an imperative as Christians. Perhaps this year we could make spending time with our families on Sundays a priority. Of course, starting with Mass.

My brothers and sisters, I need your help getting this message to those who do not come to Mass. If you know any Catholic who is not going to Mass on Sundays, please share these words with them and invite them to come back. Let's reclaim our Sundays for the Lord.



# Sundays: More liturgically important

*Rev. Andrew Galles*



The Catechism of the Catholic Church characterizes Sunday as the “eighth” day of the week, in which the new creation is ushered in and in which we commemorate the Lord’s Resurrection. For us Catholics, Sunday is and always has been a sacred day; it is the Lord’s day meant to be kept holy, first and foremost through worship that is rightly and justly owed

to God because he created us.

Even though every Mass celebrated has eternal merit because it is the re-presentation of Jesus Christ’s Sacrifice on Calvary, not every Mass is “equal” in the liturgical sense. Sunday Mass holds an extremely important place during the week, which is why we are obliged as Catholics to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. This is why attendance at daily Masses cannot replace or suffice for the Sunday obligation. Daily Masses are not equivalent to the Sunday Mass, which has a unique character and focus, and even Masses among Sundays hold higher or lower ranks, depending on what mystery of the faith is being celebrated.

This concept is known as “progressive solemnity,” and it is manifested in very concrete ways. For instance, unlike daily Masses, the Sunday Mass has a Gloria and Creed, three readings instead of two, and a generally fuller ceremony. Additionally, the Church explicitly requires that a Homily be preached for Sunday Mass, but preaching is not required at daily Mass. At the very least, the principal Sunday Mass of a parish has music and chanting throughout, flowers, incense, finer vestments, and processions at the entrance, offertory, and recessional (to name just a few things).

At the Cathedral Parish, we are always working to use and improve our progressive solemnity to illustrate the importance of Feasts and Solemnities, including Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. One small example is the candles: the altar is adorned with the traditional six candles for Sundays and Holy Days, and a seventh candle is always added when the Bishop celebrates Mass, in accord with the rubrics. In contrast, daily Masses utilize two candles on the altar, while the rank of Feast utilizes four candles (and the singing of the Gloria). On especially large celebrations, even the dedication candles around the walls of the Cathedral church are lit. Whether it’s candles, vestments, music, flowers, Eucharistic Prayer I, or other liturgical trimmings, the Cathedral Parish is always striving to show the importance and the priority of the Sunday Mass.

# ACTIVITIES & RECONCILIATION FOR KIDS

*Santa Fernandez*



Usually when a new year begins, we always establish new things that we are going to do to improve some aspects in our lives, and of course also in relation to our Spiritual life, changes are also very good and that is why in this course of Religious Education, it could not be the exception, for the first time we

will have a change in the time in which the children will celebrate their First Reconciliation.

Instead of the previously established dates we will now have them on the 26th and 28th of this month respectively the day they attend classes and afterwards in vespers of celebrating Eucharist Sacrament, the parents will have to take their chil-

dren to the confessional so that they know the appropriate place to receive this Sacrament.

Returning from the Christmas break, the children will have their exam on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also the children's parents will have a meeting on that same day to talk about the celebration of the Eucharist that will be in the month of April.

We ask all parishioners to join the prayers of the parents of these children who are preparing arduously to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time so that God will always guide them to make better decisions in their lives and that by celebrating this Sacrament they may experience God's forgiveness and love through the words of the priest who is the mediator between our Lord Jesus and us.

# PARISH UPDATES

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Building Maintenance Fund, January 1-2
- Together As One [Spanish Only], January 8-9
- Carmelite Nuns, January 15-16
- Briar Cliff University, January 29-30

## BUSY PERSONS LUNCH

Our lunch for busy people this month will be on Wednesday, January 5, after the noon Mass. We hope you can join us.

## BACK TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Student return to classes January 12 & 14, on regular schedule.

## LUNCH FOR PARISHIONERS

Thursday, January 20, 1pm at Golden Corral

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

The deadline to submit items is January 15.

## CARMEHITE PEACE CARDS

Carmelite Peace Cards are available in the back of the three churches and may be given to anyone in need of prayers during times of sorrow or celebration. They contain a prayer intention card that is filled out and returned to the Carmelite Monastery in Sioux City with an optional donation for prayerful remembrance of the individual or family.

## Are you NOT receiving our newsletter every month?

To receive a hard copy every month by mail call us at 712-255-1637 and ask to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

To receive an electronic copy, text the word SCNEWS to 84576. You will receive the newsletter every month, and updates every Monday.

## THE FINANCIAL CORNER

INCOME		Nov. 2021
Weekly Offerings	\$	56,258.00
Loose Offerings	\$	23,259.29
Prog. Support	\$	9,463.00
Other income	\$	17,729.62
<b>Total Parish Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>106,709.91</b>
EXPENSE		
Salaries & Wages	\$	36,056.72
Administrative Expenses	\$	6,147.37
Ministry Expenses	\$	1,461.32
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$	15,760.03
Assessments	\$	67,958.00
Other Expenses	\$	1,632.26
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>72,945.95</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,763.96</b>



## KNIGHTS CORNER



Phone: Gregg 712-635-1966;  
 Email: KofC743USA@gmail.com;  
 Facebook Page: "Knights of Columbus Council 743 USA"; Join Us: [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus); Meetings: 2nd Thursdays of month at 7 pm in the Cathedral Hall (next meeting January 13th).



# Cathedral of the Epiphany

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Sioux City, Iowa 51105

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# Cathedral of the Epiphany

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, Rector  
Rev. Andrew Galles, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar

Website [www.sccathedral.org](http://www.sccathedral.org)  
Email [info@sccathedral.org](mailto:info@sccathedral.org)  
Telephone 712-255-1637

## MASS SCHEDULE

**MON.-SAT.:** 12:00 pm Cathedral *English*  
**MON.-FRI.:** 5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
**SATURDAY:** 4:00 pm St. Boniface *English*  
6:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
**SUNDAY:** 8:30 am Cathedral *Spanish*  
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*  
10:00 am Cathedral *English*  
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*  
12:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*  
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*

**HOLIDAYS:** 9:00 am Cathedral *Bilingual*

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

**ANTICIPATED / VIGIL:**  
5:30 pm St. Boniface *English*  
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

## THE DAY OF THE SOLEMNITY:

7:00 am St. Joseph *English*  
12:00 pm Cathedral *English*  
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Perpetual Adoration**  
Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

## CONFESSIONS

**SUNDAY:** 8:00 am-8:20 am Cathedral  
8:00 am-8:20 am St. Joseph  
8:00 am-8:20 am St. Boniface  
**MON.-FRI.:** 4:30 pm-5:15 pm Cathedral  
**FRIDAY:** 11:30 am-11:50 am Cathedral  
**SATURDAY:** 3:00 pm-3:45 pm St. Boniface  
5:00 pm-5:45 pm Cathedral

## OFFICE HOURS

**MON., TUE., THUR.:** 10:00 am-4:00 pm  
**WEDNESDAY:** 10:00 am-1:00 pm  
2:00 pm-5:30 pm  
**FRIDAY:** 10:00am-5:30 pm