

Dear Parishioners,

We gather each weekend with family, friends and neighbors to worship God, a God of mercy, a God of healing, a God always willing to forgive. We are called to do the same. We are called to reconcile with our family member, our friend, our neighbor, just as God reconciles with us when we turn away. May the nourishment we receive at the Lord's Table strengthen us as we face the challenge of forgiving each other.

We are planning a Memorial Mass in honor of Father Grady, who passed away on September 1. Father Grady served as an associate pastor at St. Bernardine for 21 years, and at this mass we want to thank God for his life and ministry. The mass will be held on Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 am in the church.

For the third consecutive year, St. Bernardine would like to host **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), and this year we will be in conjunction with St. Luke Parish. We are asking if anyone is interested or knows of someone who is interested in joining the Catholic Church. Interested candidates would participate in weekly classes, which will be held virtually due to Covid 19. A day/night of the week to meet would be determined.

RCIA is for any adult, 18 years or older and out of high school, who would like to be baptized in the Catholic church or become a Catholic after having been baptized in another Christian tradition. It is also for those baptized Catholic adults needing to complete the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

We are also looking for **parish sponsors** who would walk with the candidates on their faith journey throughout the year. If you are longing

to get in touch with your Catholic roots, this might be a ministry for you.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining RCIA, either as a candidate or a sponsor, please contact the St. Bernardine office at (708) 366-0839 and leave a message. The decision to host RCIA again this year will depend on the response.

At the request of Pope Francis, the 2020 Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be taken this weekend, September 13, 2020. Traditionally, the Good Friday collection supports Christians living in the Land of Jesus. Due to the pandemic caused by the Corona virus this year, it was not possible to have a liturgy on Good Friday, and because of that, Pope Francis has requested that we share his concern and move forward with this collection. Some of you may have already contributed to this collection; however, if you did not and want to support Christians in the Holy Land, you will have the opportunity this Sunday. Special envelopes are set out in the vestibule, and you can place your offering in the collection box when exiting the church.

To Teach Who Christ is Update: Good news! Our parish has met our obligation to raise \$385,000.00, which means that going forward 100% of every dollar collected is credited to the parish. (Prior to reaching our goal, 60% came to the parish, and 40% to the TTWCI campaign.)

Next weekend the second collection will be taken to support the educational formation of our archdiocesan seminarians. Please be as generous as you can.

May God bless us and keep us safe in the end of the Summer.

Fr. Stan