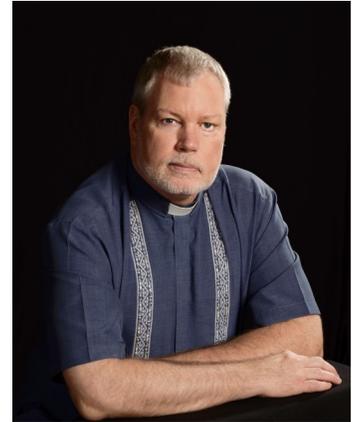




**Pastor's Page**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to extend my warmest invitation and sincerest encouragement to all parishioners who have not yet signed up for or participated in one of our Zoom Fireside Chats at OLG. Thus far we have had four such online gatherings. Two more are already scheduled—Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> (9:30 – 11:00am) and Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> (10:00 – 11:30am)—and others for which days, dates and times will soon be made public.

These listening sessions have been a way for me and members of our Pastoral Council to stay more closely in touch with parishioners, and for the participating parishioners to stay in closer contact with one another. The sessions have enabled some parishioners to touch base with friends and acquaintances they have not seen or heard from in quite a while due to the COVID shutdowns and restrictions. Some have also had the chance to meet other members of OLG who were unfamiliar, or, in some cases, completely unknown to one another because they always attend Mass at different times than one another, and/or move in different circles of ministry and parish activity. The sessions have been helpful to your pastor, to your pastoral council, and to the participating parishioners in numerous ways.

Through these sessions, we have basically been checking in with folks as to how the COVID situation has affected them—both in terms of the surprising and unexpected blessings it has brought them, as well as the challenges, hardships and difficulties it has confronted them with. We have also asked people to share about their hopes and dreams for the future as we continue moving forward as a parish that must still face the COVID situation for a while yet, but that also might be able to plan, to dream and to prepare for new possibilities and ideas as we all strive to help one another to move forward in hope and solidarity.

If at all possible, please do sign up to participate in one of our Fireside Chats. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the parish office. Spend a little time chatting and sharing with some of your fellow parishioners and helping your pastor to get to know you a little bit better.

New Year and Ordinary Time blessings to all,

*Fr. Kevin*