

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Summer Schedule: Vacation, Retreat, Activities and "Theology Tuesdays"

Seeing that his disciples were exhausted from their ministry labors, Jesus said, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (Mark 6:31) Jesus was inviting them to rest and recovery after an especially intense period of work.

For most people, and certainly for those of us who work in the church, the months of August through May are a time of many labors. The months abound with activities and meetings. Things tend to slow down in June and July, which provide time for a break from the work and a renewal through rest, vacation and retreat.

Although summer doesn't officially begin till June 21, Memorial Day Weekend is the traditional start to the summer vacation season. Fr. Thien and I plan to take some time off in June and July so we can recharge our batteries and be fresh for the re-start of the school year and the regular ministry schedule in August. However, one of us will be here at all times in June and July, and we aren't changing anything in terms of the summer Mass schedule.

Although summertime is a slower work time than the rest of the year, we do have a number of activities scheduled for the summer months at St. Francis. For youth, there will be Summer Camp, Summer Cabbage Ball and Vacation Bible Study. For parishioners who enjoy socializing opportunities, there will be an International Food Fest on June 15, a Jazz Brunch on June 23, and an Art Show on July 27-28.

For parishioners' spiritual needs, there will "Theology Tuesdays" on several Tuesday evenings in June and July. These will include a presentation on Human Sexuality and Marriage on June 4 and June 18 by me; a talk on Faith and Reason on July 23 by Dr. Basil Davis; and a talk on Immigration on July 30 by Deacon Martin Gutierrez. These evenings of theology instruction have been scheduled in response to requests for more faith formation, including during the summer months.

Details on all these events will be in upcoming bulletins and Mass announcements.

I hope you and your loved ones get some kind of break from your regular routine this summer, even if it's a "Stay-cation" in the area or simply extra time for prayer and rest. Renewing the body, mind and spirit is important. May summer provide that opportunity.

God bless,
Fr. Joe