Pastor's Corner
I am done with the Greek Alphabet

In high school and college, I studied French and Latin as my foreign languages. In seminary, I had the chance to study Greek, which was an optional course for those desiring to read the Bible in one of its original languages (the other language being Hebrew). I passed on the opportunity to study Greek, but now, in the most active of storm seasons in recorded history, I need to know Greek alphabet to keep up with all the storm names: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, etc. What is going on here?

Kidding aside, it is unbelievable that the New Orleans area has been in the "cone of probability" for seven storms this hurricane season. Cristobal passed close by with little damage. Marco fizzled out from wind shear to our south. Laura went west and clobbered Lake Charles. Sally was headed straight for us then veered east and hit the Alabama and Florida coastlines. Beta meandered in the Gulf and eventually struck Texas. Delta went west toward Lake Charles. And finally, we got a direct hit from Hurricane Zeta last week. The eye of the hurricane passed right over Old Metairie.

The saving grace of Zeta was that the hurricane, though 110 mph at landfall, had very little rain and zipped by us at 25 mph, which limited the time for wind damage. The destruction in our area was minimal, though a few people had trees fall on houses and cars. Thankfully, there was no flooding and no levee break like in Katrina. The worst part of Zeta for most people was tree debris and the loss of electrical power for days.

We give thanks to Our Lord and Our Lady for sparing us from catastrophic damage from Zeta. We pray for a speedy restoration of power in our area and for needed resources for those who did experience significant damage from the storm. Our parish is ready to help those who need assistance to rebound from Zeta. Let us hear from you.

Finally, I pray for an end to this dreadful hurricane season, because Lord, *I am so done with the Greek alphabet!*

God bless,
Fr. Joe