

## Pastor's Corner

Father's Day Blessings, Fr. Thien's Farewell Party, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Rights & Freedoms



**Father's Day:** In creating us, God chose to give us an earthly father to model the fathership of God. Like our heavenly Father, our earthly father gives us life, provide for our needs, protects us and defends us. I am deeply grateful to my father for his provision, love and support, and particularly for keeping our family together after the death of our mother at an early age. As we celebrate Father's Day, may we remember all the good our fathers have done and thank them for their many acts of service and love. May God rain down grace and faith so our dads can be fathers after God's own heart. A blessed Father's Day to all.

### Fr. Thien's Farewell Party

**Farewell Party:** We will have a Farewell and Thank-You Party for Fr. Thien on Saturday, June 26, at 5 pm in the School Auditorium. Fr. Thien has requested Vietnamese food for the celebration. There also will be finger sandwiches, cake, desserts, fun and surprises. The Parish will have parting gifts for Fr. Thien but all are welcome to bring a card or gift as well. Hope you can join us as we say Goodbye and Thanks to Fr. Thien.



**4<sup>th</sup> of July Rights & Freedoms:** On July 2, 1776, the American Continental Congress declared that the thirteen colonies were no longer subject to British rule, but were free, independent and *united* states. That declaration was ratified on July 4, 1776, which enshrined July 4 as the memorial date of U.S. freedom. As we celebrate our U.S. independence on July 4, we give thanks for our national rights and freedoms – rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and freedoms of religion, speech, press and assembly. We also acknowledge that, as followers of Jesus, we are called to stand for *true* freedom – the freedom to do the good according to God – especially when an individual or culture tries to redefine the “good” in a manner contrary to God. May the Lord bless the U.S. as we celebrate our national independence. May our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert with the Victory Belles, the hot dogs, etc. remind of the great blessing of freedom that we in the U.S. enjoy.

God's peace and blessings,  
Fr. Joe