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My dear parishioners:

Today in the United States we celebrate Father's Day. A wonderful opportunity to thank God for the gift of our fathers, living and deceased, for all that they have done over the years to provide for us, mentor us, care for us, and challenge us. For our fathers who have died, we ask God's benevolence upon them and to assure them that their lives of love continue to live in us. For our fathers who live among us, we express to them our gratitude and our love for all they do for us. To all fathers of Our Lady of the Pines Church, may God bless you abundantly for all you do for your families, the community and the Church.

As I reflected on the importance of my own father in my life, I wondered how the title of God as "Father" developed. Not surprising, the concept of calling a deity "father" dates back to antiquity. It appears to be the way the ancients attempted to express the close relationship between the deity and the worshippers. The earliest writings seem to hold a view that a god was actually a blood relative of the clan or family, a family member so good he actual became immortal (The ancient Roman Caesars believed that when they died they became gods). The family members were thus children, siblings and kinsmen of the "father" god. The ancient Babylonians addressed their deity as "Father of the Land" and the Canaanite worshiped El as the "all-father". As the Jewish faith began to develop, they understood the deity not as part of a natural or physical relationship with people but as their one true God, spiritual and eternal. The believers were God's by "adoption" and so there existed a "family kinship" where the deity was given a name that described God being the head of the family; like Eliab, which translates as "My God is Father" (El=God, Ab-Father). Numbers 1:12 At this point in salvation history you begin to see Old Testament names like, Abraham, Abimelech, Abishua, Absalom and Abijah; all depicting the "fatherly" relationship God has with the earthly man. By the time of Jesus referring to God as "Father" was common.

Jesus gives a new reality to the concept of God as Father; one that was challenging for the Jewish people to embrace. Recall that the Jewish people strongly opposed the pagan concept that god(s) was of the same substance as humans. So, for Jesus to say things like "the Father and I are one" (John 10:30) was a huge stumbling block to many of the Jews, including some who followed Jesus for a time as disciples. For Jesus, it was not that a human had become a god (the pagan understanding), but rather God had become human. To express this new reality in language that people could relate to, Jesus spoke of he being the Son of God and God as his Father. This language provided a sense of perfect intimacy, of perfect unity. The Father and the Son are one. And as a way to ensure that his followers understood the depth of intimacy, of "oneness" between the Father and the Son, Jesus used a form of the Aramaic word for "father" that was never ascribed to God, the word "Abba" (literally "Daddy") Mark 14:36. St. Paul uses this same word in both his Letter to the Romans (8:15) and Letter to the Galatians (4:6). By the gospel of Mark using the term Abba for Jesus' relationship with God and the dozens of times the gospel of John refers to God as Father, there can be no doubt that Jesus very intentionally wants his followers to know and understand God as Father.

Though the relationship between the Father and the Son is unique and personal, this relationship with the Father is extended by Jesus to his followers. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus invites his followers to call God
(Continued)

June 16 - June 24, 2018
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 16 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/
 Mt 5:33-37
Mass intention for P.T. Leger

Sunday, June 17 9:00am—Mass
 Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, June 18 4:30pm—Mass
 1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7 [2b]/Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday, June 19 No Mass
 1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16 [3a]/
 Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday, June 20 4:30pm—Mass
 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24 [25]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Thursday, June 21 8:30am—Mass
 Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7 [12a]/Mt 6:7-15

Friday, June 22 9:30am—Communion Service
 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20/Ps 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18
 [13]/Mt 6:19-23

Saturday, June 23 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34 [29a]/
 Mt 6:24-34
Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Sunday, June 24 9:00am—Mass
 Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15 [14a]/
 Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.
(Ps 92)



"Father". (Matthew 6:10) What greater privilege can there be than to be invited to join a family through a bond of love. Yet this is exactly what Jesus extends to those who believe in him. His Father is now our Father. The perfect union of God is extended in love to the human family. We have an eternal Father to provide for us, mentor us, care for us, and challenge us. And most powerfully, we have an eternal Father who has saved us through his Son.

As we celebrate Father's Day this Sunday as a way to express loving gratitude to our earthly fathers, let us be reminded that we celebrate "Father's Day" every Sunday as a way to express loving gratitude to our eternal Father by reverently participating in the Mass and keeping the day holy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. June 17 <i>Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Blessing of Fathers</i> BAKE SALE <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. June 18 4:30pm—Mass	Tues. June 19	Wed. June 20 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass	Thurs. June 21 8:30am—Mass 9:00 <i>Divine Mercy Chaplet</i>	Fri. June 22 9:30am— Communion Service	Sat. June 23 3:45-4:15pm— <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm— <i>Vigil Mass</i> 6:30pm— <i>Spanish Mass</i> <i>Blessing of Fathers</i>
Sun. June 24 <i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	Mon. June 25 4:30pm— Communion Service	Tues. June 26	Wed. June 27 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm— Communion Service	Thurs. June 28 8:30am— <i>Communion Service</i> 9:00 <i>Divine Mercy Chaplet</i>	Fri. June 29 9:30am— Communion Service	Sat. June 30 3:45-4:15pm— <i>Confessions</i> 4:30pm— <i>Spanish Mass</i> 6:30pm— <i>Spanish Mass</i>

Father out of town June 25 - June 28

Volunteers needed for
Vacation Bible School
SonCreek Junction
 July 9-July 13, 2018
 Snack maker, Craft leader,
 Bible Story teller
 Contact the office at 409-283-5367 or
 Lynn Stacy at 409-489-2444 to volunteer.

Know someone who has done an exceptional "job" of stewarding God's gifts from July 2016 through June 2018?

Nominations for the Msgr. Richard DeStefano Faithful Steward Award are being accepted now through June 19, 2018.

Nomination forms are in the vestibule.

Adult Faith Formation Classes
Sundays after Mass
 NEW VIDEO SERIES: *The Bible and the Sacraments*
Journey through Scripture
 Led by Madeline Arnett

Upcoming Events

June 19: Deadline for Stewardship Award nominations
 June 20-23: Diocesan Youth Convention
 July 9-13: Vacation Bible School
 July 15: Stewardship Awards, Beaumont, TX
 July 20-21: Catholic Men's Conference, Orange, TX
 July 30-Aug 2: Donation drop off for Parish Garage Sale
 August 3-4: Annual Parish Garage Sale
 August 4: Local Youth World Day, Beaumont, TX
 August 11: Seminar at St. Anne's in Beaumont
 August 19: Family Day/Pot Luck
 August 22: CCE classes begin

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Nelda Leathem, Maureen Peltier, Rosemary Urban, Frank Cuccia, Sr., Chad Patrick, Aundrea Roy, Don Watt, Shelley Gonzales, Cecil "C.T." Kelly, James Emfinger; Sharon Smith, Reggie Williams, Randy Rhodes, Evelyn Schima, Theresa Dale, Rick Halliburton

Repose of the soul: Charles Adamek

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

Weekly Stewardship

June 9 & 10 Weekly Offering	\$ 4,642.00
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ 1,490.00

Thank you for your generosity.