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My dear parishioners:

 There are a couple things this week that I would like to bring to your attention.

When to be seated after Holy Communion?: The Mass practice here at OLOP has been for the congregation to remain kneeling until the priest sits after Communion, and then the congregation is seated as well. Though it is a gesture of respect for the priest, allow me to remind you of why we kneel. Kneeling is a form of deep reverence for the Lord. As such the liturgical rubrics for the United States specify that we are to kneel from the conclusion of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy) through the conclusion of the Great Amen, and again from the conclusion of the Lamb of God until time to approach the altar to receive Holy Communion. This is because the Eucharistic Prayer through the reception of Holy Communion is the holiest part of our Mass as the Lord re-presents himself to us in the Eucharistic food. It is proper for us to demonstrate our devotion by kneeling. The rubrics do not actually specify what is the proper liturgical gesture of the faithful after they have received Holy Communion and before the priest celebrant calls people to stand for the post-communion prayer, blessing and dismissal.

In many countries, it is the norm for the congregation to stand during the Eucharistic Prayer as a sign of respect and reverence (just as we stand when in the presence of a king or president). In these countries, Catholics return to their pew after receiving Holy Communion and remain standing. In the United States it has been the liturgical tradition to return to one's pew and kneel (and for those who are not able to kneel, to either stand or sit). We do this because the Lord continues to be visibly in our midst while the rest of the congregation receives Holy Communion.

Once the reserve Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle, the visible presence of the Lord has been removed from our sight, though clearly the spiritual effects of the Lord's presence in us remains in full force. Hence, once the tabernacle has been closed it is proper to change your liturgical gesture from kneeling to sitting. The two reasons why being seated at that time is helpful are to accommodate those people for whom kneeling is difficult/painful and to allow second collections to take place while the priest is purifying the gifts at the altar. If it is your preference is to remain kneeling until the priest says "Let us pray" for the Post-Communion prayer, feel free to do so. The purpose of the time from after you have received Holy Communion until the priest celebrant calls us to stand in prayer, is to prayerfully reflect on the great gift we have received by taking the real and abiding presence of the Lord into our very bodies, and to apply to our daily life the grace we have received. Your liturgical gesture once you have returned to your pew after receiving Holy Communion should be the gesture that most enables you to remain attentively in prayer.

(continued)

June 30 - July 8, 2018
Readings and Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 30 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21 [19b]/Mt 8:5-17
Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Sunday, July 1 9:00am—Mass
 Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 [2a]/
 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, July 2 4:30pm—Mass
 Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [22a]/
 Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday, July 3 11:30am—First Tuesday Mass
 Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 20:24-29
Mass Intention for the Ladies of the Altar Society

Wednesday, July 4 4:30pm—Mass
 Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17 [23b]/
 Mt 8:28-34
Mass intention for Thelma Drouet

Thursday, July 5 8:30am—Mass
 Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10cd]/Mt 9:1-8

Friday, July 6 9:30am—Communion Service
 Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131 [Mt 4:4]/Mt 9:9-13

Saturday, July 7 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/Mt 9:14-17
Mass intention for Bill Gremillion

Sunday, July 8 9:00am—Mass
 Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd]/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me. (Ps 30)

Independence Day: This Wednesday our country celebrates its independence. We recall that on July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a "resolution of independence" from the Kingdom of Great Britain. After voting for independence, the Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence. This document, which had Thomas Jefferson as its principal author, explained the decision of the Congress and was approved on July 4, 1776. These two decisions of our forefathers gave birth to the United States of America and set into stone that this new country would reverence all people: "We hold these rights to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." This Wednesday let us make sure that we take a moment to prayerfully thank God for these United States and to pray for those who lead our country today that they may continue to uphold the values of our founding fathers and enable our nation to continue to be the country God has blessed us to be.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. July 1	Mon. July 2	Tues. July 3	Wed. July 4	Thurs. July 5	Fri. July 6	Sat. July 7
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	4:30pm—Mass	10:00am—Senior Social 11:30am—First Tuesday Mass 12:00 Lunch	 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass	8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	9:30am—Communion Service	3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. July 8	Mon. July 9	Tues. July 10	Wed. July 11	Thurs. July 12	Fri. July 13	Sat. July 14
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:00am—Mass <i>Adult Faith Formation following Mass</i>	9:00-11:30am VBS	9:00-11:30am VBS 6:30pm—ACTS Team meeting	9:00-11:30am VBS 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir	8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet 9:00-11:30am VBS	9:00-11:30am VBS 9:30am—Communion Service	3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Vigil Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

Vacation Bible School

SonCreek Junction

July 9-July 13, 2018

9:00am—11:30am

Come a little early on Monday to get registered.

Contact the office at 409-283-5367 or
 Lynn Stacy at 409-489-2444 to volunteer.

Adult Faith Formation Classes
Sundays after Mass

NEW VIDEO SERIES: *The Bible and the Sacraments*
Journey through Scripture

Led by Madeline Arnett

ANNOUNCING! ACTS Day of Recollection
Saturday, August 25, 2018

If you've been looking for an opportunity to reunite with your ACTS brothers and sisters, we are putting together a Team to plan this day. If you've completed an ACTS Retreat, we need you.

Pick up a Team Sign-up Brochure at the back of the church or join us for the first meeting:
Tuesday, July 10th - 6:30 pm - Family Center

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Nelda Leathem, Maureen Peltier, Rosemary Urban, Connie McDowell; Billie Matthews, William Frazier, Forrest McDowell III, Henson Crenshaw, Carl Pope, Callie Abbott, Madeline Arnett, John Podgurski, Michael Podgurski, Joyce Davis, Mark Lunsford, Baby Sterling

Repose of the soul: Fr. Bill Ryan; Linda Smith, Garry Mattingly

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 23 & 24 Weekly Offering	\$ 5,177.00
Average Weekly Cost	\$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit	\$ 2,025.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Events

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, "Call to Holiness", St. Anne's, Beaumont, TX
 August 19: Family Day/Pot Luck
 August 22: CCE classes begin
 August 25: ACTS Day of Recollection