

Father Michael's Musings  
August 2022

It might be interesting to learn that the term, "dog days of summer", has dual astrological significance. The Greeks connected the month to the rising of Sirius, the Dog Star, and connected August to heat, drought, thunderstorms and bad temper. The Egyptians also looked to Sirius, but as the harbinger of the annual flooding of the Nile. The overflowing of the Nile brought fertile soil into the farmlands, but while it benefitted the Egyptians, it was also problematic. In modern times, the dog days refer to the lack of energy and motivation that result from dealing with the heat and humidity.

St. Patrick's is buying into none of these influences. In fact, we are entering August as one of our busiest months. We hope you will be able to shake the doldrums and join us for some of the activities we have planned.

While Vacation Bible School has traditionally been a staple for children in the early summer, we are offering a different kind of program. Our VBS will be for both adults and children. The common core for both will be building a strong foundation for our faith. There will be sessions for both adults and children, as well as dedicated time for each group. The activities will feature building the foundation for a community herb garden, which we hope will also be the foundation for a full-blown community garden. The sessions will run from 6-8PM from Wednesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>. (Yes, we are dodging the heat, but also allowing working adults to participate.)

It seems Brevard County Schools share our disdain for the negative connotations of August's dog days. Schools start up on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Our neighborhood elementary school, Atlantis, covers a diverse geographic and economic footprint. For the last 3 years, St. Patrick's has supplied backpacks and school supplies to the school to distribute to kids who would otherwise do without these essential tools. We also take recommendations from the parish and community which identify other kids in need. If you know of a family who needs help getting ready for school, please let us know. We also help you will help us to stock the backpacks with the supplies these children will need. We will bless the backpacks and supplies at our 10:00 service on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, we close out August with our monthly Veterans and First Responder appreciation breakfast on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and 9:00 AM. If you have served our country or our community, we are very grateful to have you as our guests. We also believe that the families of those who serve us should be honored as well. If you are the spouse or other family member of our heroes, please join us.

God bless you during the Dog days. We hope to see you at our services or at one of these activities.

Father Michael