

NOTRE DAME PARISH

Ordinary Time, 12th Sunday

You are worth more than many sparrows.



Worry, anxiety, fear. Americans seem to invite anxiety even in the best of times. Fear becomes a lifestyle that demands some sort of therapy, some sort of drug, some sort of insurance.

What can help people break out of fear, anxiety, and worry? A trust in

something greater than themselves. When people lose themselves to fear, they realize they are not in control. They live in sheer chaos. When they realize that God is truly in control, and that all they need to do is to trust God, they can live without anxiety. They can live openly, in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Friday, June 19 @ 8AM | William Jude Kilberg |
| Saturday, June 20 @ 4PM | Bernie Brown |
| Sunday, June 21 @ 9PM | Dan Murphy |
| Monday, June 22 @ 8AM | Rev. Thomas Boyd |
| Tuesday, June 23 @ 8AM | Patricia Courtney |
| Wednesday, June 24 @ 8AM | John Benish Sr. |
| Thursday, June 25 @ 8AM | Joe Meel |
| Thursday, June 25 @ 6PM | 2020 Notre Dame Graduates |
| Friday, June 26 @ 8AM | Cynthia Remijas Byron |
| Saturday, June 27 @ 4PM | Columbia Dison |
| Sunday, June 28 @ 9:30AM | Anna Lewis |

Oremus – Let Us Pray

- For the eternal rest of recently deceased parishioner, Norah Dotson
- For the safe re-opening of our church and school
- For our First Communion Class
- For the graduating class of 2020
- For our fathers, living and deceased
- For young people who have no mature father figure in their lives
- For charity towards others during this COVID-19 pandemic
- For the proper vetting of candidates for public office

Opening Up for the Sacraments

Through the years a few parishioners have advised me – sometimes seriously and sometimes kiddingly – to “shorten the Mass.” Offer a “quickie” early on Sunday for the golfers. Have less music. Skip a reading. Use more Eucharistic ministers.

This weekend and for the foreseeable future, these advisors and all of us will see a shortened Mass with less ceremony and participation, and no singing. There will be no altar servers or crowding in the sanctuary. Strict social distancing and masking will be required.

We pray these practices will not be forever. But as you know, it is hard to get consistent information to make intelligent

decisions. The CDC, the World Health Organization, and the White House are at odds on policies and practices. Some claim to know who don't know, and those best equipped to know are not listened to. And between the two groups are a lot of opinions! Then there are optimists and pessimists, gamblers, and risk-takers, and conspiracy seekers.

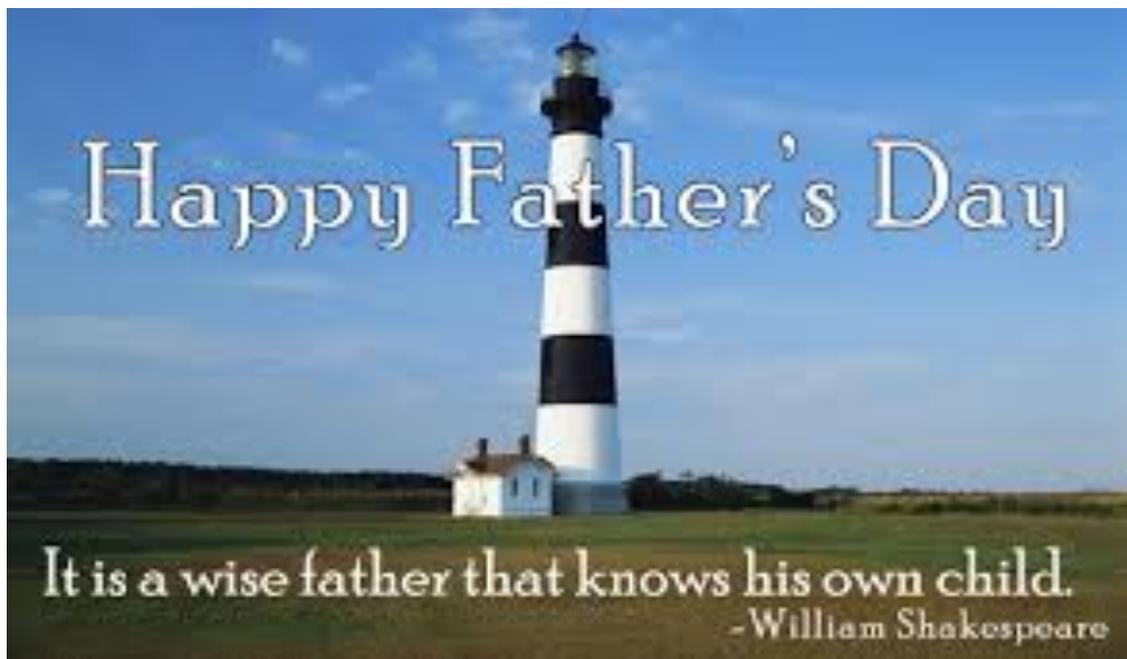
In the course of this pandemic, I've heard some folks adopting a kind of fatalistic attitude towards the course of things. They are more threatened by the downward turn of the economy than by COVID-19. They say, “More than 38,000 people die in car accidents in the

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“Right action requires the working together of divine grace and the human will.”

--Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos





Father's Day Is Also Mother's Day

This weekend we celebrate fathers. It is good to be a father. I am a father, and my own father was my hero and inspiration. But what does it mean to be a father? What does it mean to be a man?

The basic science is simple: a man is a possessor of a Y chromosome, and a father is the provider of such to his male progeny. But the completeness of male and female, man and woman, is much deeper than DNA. Both are beautiful; even DNA is beautiful. All beauty comes from God the creator but for the sake of the calendar, I'll leave these musings and focus on maleness.

What makes a man? A father is necessary to literally "make" a man, but you can be a man without being a father. Anatomy and physiology, parts and function, are an integral and defining aspect of maleness, but are not

complete without the spirit of manhood. Testosterone and testicles are clearly crucial, but true manhood rules the testicles. When it is the other way around, then maleness becomes toxic. A society obsessed by sex is poisonous. And a culture confused about sex is self-destructive; equivocation equals extinction.

At their core, manhood and womanhood are not only beautiful, they are distinct, Godly, and necessary for survival. We need to rediscover the man of the spirit.

Jesus was such a man; he is the eternal man. He showed strength with meekness. He lifted little children up as an example of character. He treated women with respect and dignity. He fasted for forty days and nights, defying the elements in a battle of toughness. He healed, he

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comforted, and he stood up to oppression and injustice. He wielded a whip against a den of thieves. But he also forgave, and loved the unlovable. The power of his man-ness is perfect love and humility. Proof of his power is his suffering and death on the cross for all humankind. Yes, Jesus is *The Man*.

And if Jesus is *The Man*, God is *The Father*, the first father, the only complete father, the best father. Although God as the Father is not frequently used in the Old Testament, Jesus almost exclusively used "Father" when referring to God, and taught us to pray, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name..." and he told us to use that prayer to ask for deliverance from evil and for daily bread. In the same way, children look up to their earthly fathers for protection and nourishment. Synonyms of father include founder, creator, author, architect, protector, provider, leader, and teacher. To simply father a child is only the beginning of fatherhood. Protecting, providing, nourishing, teaching, working with, playing with, praising,

reprimanding, disciplining, rewarding, and most of all loving our children is the real work of being a father. Even in discipline, biblical fatherhood is restorative and forgiving, with a goal of shaping a fuller and more productive life.

The monumental task of fatherhood takes great determination, and requires us dads to be persistent and completely unselfish. More than that, we need grace from God. And after God, I could not approach this calling without the love and help of a good wife. Yes, Father's Day is also Mother's Day. The strength of fatherhood is as creative and sustaining as it is guiding and correcting. Not a harsh power of control or dictatorship, it is love. Since God is love, and he created all of us, then fatherhood is love, and motherhood is love. And, as it says in the first chapter of Genesis, "It was very good."

J. Heinrich Arnold is a father and grandfather, as well as a pastor, physician assistant, teacher, and musician. He lives in a Bruderhof community in Rifton, New York.



PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person. Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.

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U.S. each year. 20 to 59K died to influenza illnesses last year. We all will die someday. When it's our time, it's our time." Don't speak of other human beings as "collateral damage."

This is fatalism, and it is not a Christian doctrine. God does not assign a specific date or cause to our inevitable upcoming death. Jesus said that he wants us to have life, life to the fullest. Each human person has a role to play in *this* world, to guard human dignity and life, to promote justice and peace, and to seek the health of each and every person, including ourselves.

Those who exempt themselves from the health guidelines issued by knowledgeable authorities are sinning against charity and love of neighbor. They are guilty of narcissism.

The present time calls for the classic virtue of *prudence*. What is prudence? Merriam-Webster defines it as (1) the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason, (2) sagacity or shrewdness in the management of affairs, (3) skill and good judgment in the use of resources, and (4) caution or circumspection as to danger or risk.

I am praying that our parishioners and visitors will exercise *prudence* and *charity* in the months ahead. I ask that everyone co-operate with the restrictions we have put in place here at Notre Dame. Let no one dare to invoke First Amendment rights. Let no one accuse me of getting my information from the

wrong sources. We don't want to have to employ bouncers at the church doors!

Prudence invites the vulnerable and the sick to *stay at home*. Prudence invites us to *wash our hands regularly*. Prudence invites us to *maintain social distancing*.

Let us remember we are Christians during these difficult times. This is an opportunity to grow in holiness, charity, and trust in God.

As I often quote the anchorite, Blessed Julian of Norwich, "All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of thing will be well."

Father Keith & Rocco



A PRAYER FOR FATHERS

*God our Father,
In your wisdom and love you
made all things.*

*Bless those fathers who have
taken upon themselves the
responsibility of parenting.*

*Bless those who have lost a
spouse to death, separation, or
divorce, and who are parenting
their children alone.*

*Strengthen all dads
by your love,
that they may become
the loving, caring persons
they are meant to be.*

*Grant this through Christ our
Lord.
Amen!*

*Saint Joseph, foster father of
Jesus, pray for us!*

