

January 16, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all striving to keep calm and peaceful spirits in these difficult days of Covid uncertainty for everyone -- between symptoms and testing, school and work, this can all become very stressful and unpredictable to everyone -- adults and children alike. Please try to be extra patient and kind with each other, especially those closest to you every day. We become NUMB to the whole situation -- but we need to CARE and LOVE more.

This week there are a couple of observances to be aware of:

First, from Tuesday, January 18, through Tuesday, January 25, all Christians are asked to observe an Octave (8 days) of Prayers for Christian Unity. I am so conscious of the many Christian churches that bless the Glenside community. Many homes are blessed with marriages of husbands and wives of various Christian communities, or perhaps young adult children have investigated other Christian denominations. In these days that often highlight things that divide people, we should be conscious of those things that we share in common with other Christian traditions, especially Baptism into a life of grace in Jesus Christ, faith in a Triune God who sent His Son, the new life we all share through Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, and the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures we share with each other. As you drive around Glenside this week, pause in front of the churches, recognize them and say a little prayer for our common shared faith.

Second, Saturday, January 22, is the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion in our country in 1973. Right now the Supreme Court is deciding some very serious cases to begin restricting some of these legalized procedures. The Annual March for Life will take place in Washington, D.C. and there will be local observances as well. I encourage you to attend Mass on Friday or Saturday, to observe a day of fast for all those who have perished through abortion, and, above all, to be grateful to God for the gift of your life, the lives of your family and friends, and the lives of each person, even those you don't know, who you may see or encounter over the weekend.

Thank you again for your continued love and respect of your Catholic faith, and your support of St. Luke Parish and each other. Be assured of my prayers as I depend on yours. Have a peaceful week. Stay close to God and God will be close to you.

St. Luke, pray for us.

Father Joe Brandt