

We celebrate **Father's Day this Sunday, June 21st**. We think of the strength of a father, his guiding hand, his wisdom, his help. God the Father gave us his only Son, Jesus Christ, so that we might be saved through him. He provides an example of the very vocation of fatherhood.

Fathers sacrifice their lives for their families. They do this by:

- Being the spiritual leader and guardian of their families.
- Praying for and with their families.
- Being a courageous witness to the Gospel.
- Providing care and support for their families.
- Serving as an example of goodness and truth.
- Leading with courage and accountability.
- Laying down one's life for another.

Today, in a special way, let us be grateful for:

- Our fathers, by birth or adoption, who love us and support us through life.
- Our Church leaders, who take on the paternal role of guiding us through life.
- And God our Father, who will always teach justly and grant us boundless mercy.

The Prodigal Son is a reading most people are very familiar with for today's reflection, think of your Dad. Note in Luke's Gospel (Lk 15:11-32) he says "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion." Reflect on the thousands of times a father waits in vigil. Whether a son coming back from school, a daughter from her first dance, a child serving in the armed forces: the gift of our fathers always waiting and watching over us.

Noah (Gn.6) Humble and protective father; Abraham (Gn.12) our father of faith; Isaac (Gn.22) monogamous man; Jacob (Gn.25) father of twelve (Hebrews); Moses (Exodus 2) shows today's fathers that overwhelming tasks can be achieved when we stay close to God; Joseph (Mt.1) Spouse of Mary and earthly father of Jesus, a righteous man and finally, God the Father, where every human father is also a son of this highest of God, the constant source of strength, wisdom, and hope to Christians everywhere.

Let us also pray for those men who have not acknowledged their participation as co-creator with God because of lack of faith or understanding of faith; for those men who renounced to accept their responsibilities as fathers; for those who missed their children to grow and those who have not been a good example for their children. For any father who has hurt, abused or abandoned their children we must pray too for their repentance and conversion.

As believers of God as Father, we must remember how God has decided to lead the world as a Loving and Merciful Father in whom all leaders should be inspired. It took a long time for Israel to clarify who God was for them, but in following Jesus we have a much better understanding of who God the Creator is. We should never forget Jesus teachings about God as Father so all men would exercise their leadership not with fear, intimidation, violence or dictatorial impositions but with justice, kind discipline, love and compassion.

Last weekend, as we celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, our mass schedule continues as follow: **Saturday at 3pm & 5pm and Sunday at 7am, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm**; keeping our social distancing of 6 feet all the time, wearing face masks, using hand sanitizing once we enter the church, taking the bulletin on our way out at the end of the mass and avoiding physical contact. Our church is sanitized and cleaned regularly and the clergy are happy to distribute Holy Communion observing the same regulations.

One of our priorities at St. Columbkille Parish is to keep our environment safe; we need your cooperation when you come to church. If you or someone you know may be a vulnerable person, ill or with health concerns; **A priest will be happy to give Holy Communion in the driveway this Sunday, June 21st, from 12 to 12:30pm.** The dispensation from attending Sunday Mass in our diocese has been extended by the Bishop to June 28th.

We have begun an exciting experience on Saturday mornings to enrich the devotion to the Blessed Mother. We have a Communal Prayer of the Rosary followed by the Marian Novena, Saturdays at 8:00am. **A priest will also be available for confessions from 8:30am to 9:30am in the driveway, under the portico.**

Church is open every day from 7:00am to 12noon and parish office is open from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to noon and from 1:00pm to 4:30pm.

Tomorrow, **Saturday, June 20th from 11:00am to 1:00pm, we are going to have “Hot Dogs and Hamburgers to Go”** at Iona Hall with no charge in honor of all men who humbly recognize the Divine Providence entrusted to them at the moment they became co-creators with God. Happy and Blessed Father’s Day.

If anyone needs a face mask we are happy to provide them when you come to church, please, stop at the sacristy, at the main entrance area and a sacristan will be happy to provide you with a mask.

May God’s blessing shower over you and yours where ever you may be at this time with much love and abundant peace and faith. We send you a big hug.

Fr. Lorenzo