



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
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August 6, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I mentioned in my letter a couple of weeks ago and in my homily this weekend, my first goal here at Our Lady of the Rosary is to get to know our parish and to get to know all of you. To accomplish this goal, I plan to steal the idea of a great priest, Fr. Ronnie Calkins. (Please keep him in your prayers as he begins a serious battle against cancer.) He has developed the practice of using “coffee gatherings” as a way to meet his parishioners and to hear their wants and their needs as he begins a new pastoral assignment.

I am hoping that our parish can organize ten coffee gatherings where parishioners can gather in the homes of a fellow parishioner. At each of these meetings, there will be an opportunity for a causal gathering so that I can get to know you a little better and an organized opportunity for you to express to me your own answers to two important questions:

1. What is Holy Rosary doing well? What are we known for?
2. What could we be doing better? Where is God inviting us in the future?

What I will ask from you is that you consider the possibility of hosting one of these gatherings in your home. All that will be required is to provide a welcoming place, hot coffee, and perhaps a few cookies. The parish will provide anything else that is needed. The hosts of the coffee gatherings will be asked to invite their fellow parishioners to attend so that I can meet as many of you as possible. (We would ask each host to accommodate at least 15-20 people.) I hope that people of all ages and backgrounds would volunteer to host so that I can meet and hear from a diverse representation of the parish.

There will be ten coffee gathering between August and November. These are the dates that will be available for hosting:

1. Tuesday, August 29 - 7pm
2. Tuesday, September 5 - 10am -OR- Thursday, September 7 - 10am
3. Tuesday, September 12 - 10am -OR- Wednesday, September 13 - 10am
4. Monday, September 25 - 7pm -OR- Thursday, September 28 - 7pm
5. Saturday, September 30 - 10am
6. Tuesday, October 3 - 10am -OR- Friday, October 6 - 10am
7. Thursday, October 5 - 7pm
8. Thursday, October 19 - 10am -OR- Saturday, October 21 - 10am
9. Monday, October 30 - 7pm -OR- Thursday, November 2 - 7pm
10. Thursday, November 9 - 7pm **at the Rectory** - open to anyone who has not yet attended.

If you are willing to host one of these coffee gatherings, please contact Grace in the office (504-488-2659) as soon as possible.

To Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Jonathan
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