

Feast of Our Lady of Grace



My Dear Parish Family,

Happy Feast Day! Today we rejoice as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Grace, the beloved patroness of our parish and the gentle Mother who continually intercedes for us with unwavering love. Her title, Our Lady of Grace, reminds us that every blessing and every gift of grace comes from Christ our Savior and, by God's loving design, is shared with us through her maternal intercession. She stands before us as both Mother and model—the perfect disciple, filled with faith, humility, and complete trust in God's will.

Mary's entire life is a living testimony to the transforming power of divine grace. That same grace continues to reach all who call upon her with faith and devotion, as she lovingly leads us ever closer to her Son and teaches us to live as a sign of unity in Him.

This Marian witness is deeply woven into the very identity of our parish. Our Lady of Grace was founded to cultivate peace, unity, and harmony rooted in a deep love for Christ, so that all may glorify God with one

voice. As a diverse and hope-filled people, we are continually inspired by Mary's courageous "yes," remaining attentive to God's Word and faithful in His service—comforting those who suffer serious illness, healing the brokenhearted, and working toward reconciliation among those divided by race, wealth, education, and nationality.

This call to unity echoes the vision recently articulated by Pope Leo. On the day of his election, as he appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on May 8, 2025, he proclaimed: "We are all in the hands of God; therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we move forward." Nine days later, at the Solemn Mass inaugurating his pontificate, he declared: "I would like our first great desire to be for a united Church—a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world."

In a time of deep division in the world—and even within the Church—our parish of Our Lady of Grace has flourished as a community marked by unity, hospitality, compassion, and hope. Strengthened by God and filled with joy in the Resurrection of Christ, we pray through Mary's intercession: relieve our distress, renew our faith, and strengthen our hope in His promises.

The Christian life itself is rooted in unity—unity with Christ, and with one another. True holiness flows from obedience and harmony that reflect the mind of God. Jesus Christ is the source and center of this unity, just as the bishop serves as a visible sign of Christ's unity within the Church.

From the earliest days of Christianity, this truth has been clearly taught. Saint Ignatius of Antioch uses the image of a harp and a choir to show that when believers are united in heart and mind, their lives become a single song of praise to God. Such unity strengthens the Church's prayer, reveals authentic discipleship, and allows believers to share fully in the life of God. Division, by contrast, weakens communion and distances us from the grace that flows through the Church.

My beloved parishioners, this feast reminds us that grace is not earned; it is freely given by God. Yet grace always invites a response. In the one Christ, we are one—called to live lives marked by gratitude,

humility, and love. Mary teaches us that the only fitting response to grace is faith: the courageous “yes” that allows God to work wonders in and through us.

As your pastor, I invite each of you to renew your devotion to our Blessed Mother. Pray the Rosary often. Contemplate the mysteries of her Son’s life. Become a sign of unity and allow Mary’s example to draw you ever closer to Him. Let her teach you how to receive God’s grace and share it generously with others.

May Our Lady of Grace continue to watch over us, intercede for us, and gently lead us to her Son. May her mantle cover our families, our parish, and all who seek refuge in her care. And may we, like Mary, say “yes” each day to God’s grace and become instruments of His love in the world.

With deep gratitude and every blessing in Christ and Mary,

✠ Fr. Vilaire Philius

Pastor