



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

Pastoral Letter to the Faithful of Our Lady of Grace United in Christ, Nourished by the Eucharist

*“Make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
— Ephesians 4:3*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ. In this Sunday’s Gospel, we encounter the Canaanite woman whose humble, persistent, and unwavering faith touched the heart of Jesus. Even when the Lord seemed silent, she never lost hope. Her example reminds us that God’s silence is never His absence. He is always working, guiding His Church, blessing our parish, and leading His people with wisdom, mercy, and love as we remain faithful to Him.

With gratitude, I thank God for the many blessings He continues to pour out upon our parish family. Your faithful participation in the Eucharist, your generous service in our ministries, and your care for one another are visible signs of Christ’s living presence among us. Together, we continue striving to become the parish God is calling us to be.

Our parish mission beautifully expresses both our identity and our purpose:

“Nourished by the Eucharist to grow in relationship with Christ, to foster and cultivate unity among all ethnic communities, thereby living out our call as Disciples of Christ.”

Simply stated, we are a Eucharistic parish called to know Christ more deeply, build unity among all God’s people, and form missionary disciples who joyfully proclaim the Gospel.

Every celebration of the Eucharist, every act of service, every ministry, and every decision we make should lead people to encounter Jesus Christ and strengthen the unity of our parish family. As members of the one Body of Christ, we all share responsibility for this mission. I encourage each of us to deepen our life of prayer, speak with charity, reject gossip and division, and work together with humility, mutual respect, and a spirit of communion.

Our parish office also shares this sacred mission. For many people, it is their first encounter with the Church. Whether someone comes seeking a sacrament, planning a funeral, preparing for marriage, enrolling a child in faith formation, or simply asking for prayer, every person should experience the compassion, hospitality, and love of Christ.

As we continue preparing for the future, I am pleased to welcome **Lisa Boivin** as our Office Manager. Beginning in January 2027, we will also welcome a new Director of Faith Formation as **Theresa Wood** begins her transition to part-time ministry in preparation for retirement. We give thanks to Theresa’s many years of

faithful and generous service to our parish, and I ask you to keep her in your prayers during this new chapter of her life and ministry. Agnes Trotter is appointed the new Pastoral Council chairperson and will begin in the month of August. We I want to reiterate that every ministry head is appointed on strict three-year mandate or term at Our Lady of Grace.

To strengthen communication, collaboration, and faithful stewardship, all parish ministries will continue submitting their annual calendars through **Marie Nazon**, our Family Life Coordinator. This process will help us coordinate parish activities more effectively, avoid scheduling conflicts, and better support our shared mission of evangelization.

As we move forward together, I invite each of us to prayerfully ask:

How is God calling me to build unity within our parish, serve others with generosity, and bring people closer to Jesus Christ?

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every parishioner, volunteer, ministry leader, catechist, musician, usher, sacristan, altar server, lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, staff member, and benefactor. Your generosity, dedication, and faithful witness strengthen our parish and help proclaim the Gospel each day. Your service is a true blessing to our parish family.

May every person who enters Our Lady of Grace encounter a community that is joyful in worship, united in charity, faithful in service, and courageous in proclaiming Jesus Christ.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Grace, intercede for us, that we may remain steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, generous in charity, and united in fulfilling the mission entrusted to us by her Son.

Be assured of my daily prayers for you and your families. May Almighty God bless you, deepen your faith, strengthen your hope, and fill your hearts with His peace as we continue our pilgrimage together toward His heavenly Kingdom.

May the Lord continue to nourish us through the Holy Eucharist, unite us as one family in Christ, and send us forth as joyful missionary disciples to share His love with the world.

In Christ,

Fr. Vilaire Philius
Pastor