

June 1, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This letter consists of some odds and ends, endings and beginnings, fashion notes and maybe even "a little off the top." Read on!

I want to remind you that we will soon begin our summer weekend Mass schedule. Beginning on the weekend *after* Fathers' Day, the weekend schedule will be Mass on Saturday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

This schedule will run through Labor Day weekend and we will resume the regular schedule on Saturday, September 8. To recap:

Summer Weekend Mass Schedule

June 23 *through* September 2

Saturdays: **5:00 p.m.**

Sundays: **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

Speaking of the summertime... Recently, I sent a memo to our Lectors and Ministers of the Eucharist regarding their summertime apparel for serving at Mass. Some of our liturgical ministers suggested that the memo I sent might have value for the whole parish so I've adapted it here for a wider audience:

At Holy Family Parish we want the greatest reverence and respect possible at the celebration of the liturgy: for the Lord whom we worship and for the people with whom we pray. Our attire is an outward expression of our love for the Lord and for the Church, his body, with whom we celebrate Mass.

All year 'round it's good to think "Sunday best" when dressing for church services even though "Sunday best" will vary according to the seasons and the weather. Especially in the summer, it will be helpful to keep in mind modesty, good taste and common sense when getting ready to come to church for prayer, and for helping children as they dress for Mass.

The question of dress is less a matter of individual choice ("what I think is appropriate") and more a question of what will uplift (or possibly offend) the people of God with whom we pray.

No dress code here, no particular "do's and don't's" - just a request to keep these thoughts in mind as you prepare for coming to Mass.

Our First Communion season ended last weekend. It was a joy to welcome so many children to the Lord's Table for the first time, and to have their extended families worshipping with us. A few weeks ago in this space I wrote at some length about why we celebrate First Communion at weekend Masses. It's labor intensive on parish ministers in some ways but I believe the experience is well worth the effort! And my thanks to all of you who so warmly welcomed the children as they received the Eucharist for the first time.

On Monday, June 11, there will be an interesting presentation at St. Eulalia Church in Winchester. Sr. Nancy Murray, a Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan, will offer a one-woman performance on the life and works of the 14th century mystic, St. Catherine of Sienna. The performance is at 7:00 p.m. in St. Eulalia Church. No admission charge but a free will offering will be gratefully accepted. As an interesting side note: Sr. Nancy Murray is the sister of comedian Bill Murray!

I'm hoping to be on vacation the first three weeks in August and am working now on getting coverage for that time. For many years now, I've pondered the possibility of shaving my head for the summer: something I've never done but each year I get a little bit closer to actually doing it! Someone has suggested that if I do it I should make it a fund raising event because it seems there might be some folks willing to put some cash on the table for the pleasure of taking a swipe at my head with the clippers! I'm not sure about that part, but I am thinking about a summer without a comb. Fair warning has thus been given: comments happily received at FrAustinFleming@aol.com or at **55 Church Street, Concord, MA 01742**)

You will soon be receiving a mailing from the parish regarding some **important and significant changes** in our religious education program. Please give these materials and the volunteer opportunities involved your careful attention *now* - and please be sure to register and return your forms with the fees *before* you depart for summer vacation!

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming