

# Good News of Notre Dame

[www.notredame-pa.org](http://www.notredame-pa.org)

August 2021

## ***An Invitation From Our Pastor Fr. Richard Allen to Return to the Eucharist and our Parish Community***

Dear Parishioners,

The Bishops of Pennsylvania have decided that the dispensation regarding Sunday Mass will be lifted on the weekend of **Sunday, Aug.**

**15.** In plain English, this means that if we are able, it is time to come back to Church and celebrate together.

We need to regard this moment as a happy invitation to come together again. I know that a great many people have been enjoying the video Masses. To be honest, I truly enjoy recording the videos and intend to keep that ministry alive as long as Jerry Stigliano, my video wizard, is willing to put in so much effort. As good as the videos have been, however, Sunday Mass has two very important advantages over



is great value in coming together with family, friends and fellow believers who are all united in faith. So, I hope to begin seeing you soon.

For the time being, we will continue to offer our current, expanded schedule of masses: 4 and 6 p.m. Saturday, as well as 8, 10 and noon on Sunday. The two extra Masses allow us to be

participating from home.

First, there is an opportunity to receive the Eucharist, which is the Body and Blood of Christ.

Second, there

together while avoiding having a crowded feeling.

Finally, I want to stress that this is an invitation, and is not exactly a hard and fast requirement. Some people are burdened with a compromised immune system, others still face a great deal of anxiety in public places with large crowds. If you are suffering with either of these difficulties, you are under no obligation to attend until the situation improves.

Please know that whether or not you are able to attend in person, you are in my prayers and my thoughts. If there is anything you need, or if you have any questions about this please call. I hope to see you soon.

## **Notre Dame Parish Outdoor Noon Mass & Picnic is set for August 22, 12 to 4 p.m.**

What a great way to welcome everyone back to Mass and celebrate summer!

We received so many positive comments after bringing back our parish picnic back in 2019, we promised to make it an annual event. Unfortunately, with the pandemic, we were not able to have our picnic last year, but 2021 is a new year. We are hoping that ALL will be excited and feel comfortable gathering outside for some FAITH, FRIENDS, FOOD, & FUN!

Noon Mass will be held on the Highland Road side of the church. Lunch will be served from 1-3 p.m. along with games and crafts for all ages. The parish will be providing meat and drinks, the Knights of Columbus providing hot dogs and beer, and all of you will be asked to provide a side dish or dessert according to the first letter of your last name with A-G providing a dessert, H-N providing a salad and O-Z providing a hot casserole. PLEASE bring all food in throw away containers.

We plan to play bingo, volleyball, maybe even have a little corn hole tournament, along with some games for the kids. If you have a craft or game you would like to be in charge of or have a teenager who wouldn't mind manning one of the craft tables, please let us know.



We are looking to have many volunteers, so that everyone has some time to enjoy the picnic and to socialize with our parish family.

We are also looking for \$5 gift cards that we can use for prizes. These can be dropped off at the church office Mon - Thur 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m..

If you have any questions or would like to help in anyway, please call Jeanne @ 724-854-6206, Jo @ 724-699-3340, Michelle @ 724-699-5891, or Staci @ 330-519-3239.



The parish music ministry includes its choir, pictured above, a folk group, cantors, and instrumentalists.

## Church of Notre Dame's Music Ministry is Back in Full Swing

As you may already know, the Notre Dame Music Ministry, which boast over 30 members, has begun a regular schedule of music at 4 p.m. on Saturdays, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sundays.

This includes choirs, cantors, pianists, contemporary instruments, and organists.

We are most blessed in this parish to have so many people committed to singing, playing and leading the congregation in sung prayer.

This article is to invite you to consider becoming a part of this Ministry in our parish. If you have a talent in music, playing and/or singing, please pray about joining us.

You can contact Gretchen Wagner, Liturgy & Music Coordinator, at the Parish office, 724-981-5566, ext. 105, and she will answer any questions you may have.

***"The one who sings,  
prays twice."***

***We come to Share Our Story,  
We come to break the bread,  
We come to know our rising  
from the dead.***

*(Song of the Body of Christ, GIA, 1989)*

After many months of the coronavirus pandemic, with viewing Sunday Liturgy by video Masses, we are now as this familiar liturgical song says "rising from the dead" with the invitation to **Return To Church!** We are invited to return to our Sunday Catholic Worship Community to hear God's Word proclaimed and share in the Body and Blood of Christ.

Many parishioners have "shared their stories" of the importance of being back at the Mass:

**"After receiving the vaccine, we were so excited to be back at Mass, visiting with our parish friends, and receiving the body and blood of Christ."**

**"I need it (The Mass)! At my age, I rely on the grace of God as we receive communion for support to heaven."**

**"It is the joyous music which I have missed. We are so blessed at Notre Dame with wonderful songs, beautiful voices and so many instruments raising thanks and joy to God."**

### Notre Dame Parish Directory

**Very Rev. Richard Allen, E.V.,**  
Pastor

**Joseph Ranelli,** Director of  
Religious Education

**Kathy Higgins,** Director of Adult  
Education

**Gretchen Wagner,** Liturgy/Music  
Coordinator

**Carrie Hannah,** Secretary

**Mary Lou Hornyak,** Religious  
Ed. Secretary

**Ann Miller,** Business Manager

**Tony Paglia,** Newsletter Editor

**Parish Office: 724-981-5566**



## A Message from Notre Dame's New Deacon: Frank Hannah

-----

### *A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with One Step*

The old Chinese proverb cannot be more fitting as I reflect on my diaconal ministry and life in general. Quite literally, God called me and Carrie 1,211 miles from our family and friends in Cape Coral, FL to Hermitage, PA.

After we settled in a number of years, God continued his work on us. Being practicing Southern Baptists, we found it hard to blend into any church. We grew up learning fundamental tenets of our faith and we were accustomed to those tenets being reinforced and encouraged in our former church.

However, we just felt uncomfortable at any of the local churches we had been visiting since our move. In the summer of 2011, our youngest son came home from a European trip with a gift for us of rosaries he bought at the Vatican. It was a simple string of beads that lit a fire of curiosity about my Christian faith and really about the history of the faith. Why do I believe what I believe?

I studied Catholic materials incessantly for months. Finally, Carrie and I decided to try Notre Dame to really see what it was like over at that Catholic church. We felt at home from day one. Our journey as Catholics and eventually to the diaconate began on Sept. 16, 2012, when we were confirmed at Notre Dame by then pastor, Father Jeff Noble.

Unlike a journey that takes us from one point on a map to another where the expectations of what is going to happen are anticipated, the Christian's journey is not about physical movements but about spiritual movements. The journey is about personal, ongoing conversion.

My diaconal ministry goal is to help you feel at home at Notre Dame and encouraged and supported in your journey of ongoing conversion . . . one step at a time.

**May God bless each of you,  
Deacon Frank Hannah**



**Newly ordained Deacon Frank Hannah  
and his wife Carrie.**

## **ONLINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE ND WEBSITE**

Notre Dame Parish members are now able to make donations to the church online at the Notre Dame parish website: [www.notredame-pa.org](http://www.notredame-pa.org).

For those who prefer setting up payments online, whether recurring or on a one-time basis, the website's online giving feature will be convenient and timesaving. Here's what to do:

1. Go to [www.notredame-pa.org](http://www.notredame-pa.org)
2. Click on the Resources line at the top of the website then click on Online Giving.

3. Once there you will be asked to set up an account with your name, address etc. while setting a username and password.

4. Once logged in you can decide whether you want to make a recurring gift or make a contribution whenever you wish to. You can designate a weekly gift as you do with your Sunday envelopes and also make donations for Holy Days, special days designated by the Catholic Church and the Erie Diocese Catholic Services Appeal.

5. You will be asked the type of payment method, e.i., from checking or savings accounts or by credit card. You will need to provide the necessary information for whatever account is designated.

Feel free to call the parish office at 724-981-5566 if you have any questions about Online Giving.

## Father's Day 2021 Outdoor Mass and Social



Photos by Mark Hohman



**Church of Notre Dame  
2325 Highland Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148**

**Return Receipt  
Requested**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 15  
SHARON, PA.**