

Dear Parishioners,

From Our Pastor

Blessed be the name of the Lord in this year of our Golden Jubilee and Eucharist Revival!

I came to Holy Faith Parish on February 14, 2021 as your Pastor. As most of you have heard my story, the transfer from my previous Parish in Jacksonville came as a surprise to me. I never thought I would be living in Gainesville! In my year and a half of being your Pastor I have come to love this Parish and to get to know you more fully. I have listened to your stories of joy and your stories of sorrow. I have been with you “in sickness and in health”, held your hands when distressed and suffering, prayed for healing when illness has appeared, and rejoiced with you in good times and blessings. I feel blest to be a part of your lives and now I am part of your family. No longer this is *your* parish but *our* parish.

Holy Faith has had a rough time in the last several years: the loss of your beloved Pastor, Fr. John Phillips, the COVID pandemic, the transition times with Fr. Emmanuel during a time of pandemic isolation, adjusting to two new priests, and eventually, adjusting to a new Pastor. In the midst of all the loss and struggles, our parish has moved forward with strength and with **holy faith!** I joyfully can say today that the state of our Parish is STRONG and BLEST.

In the last year and a half, we have been blessed to have about 100 new parishioners join our family. Most of you have responded enthusiastically when called to be engaged in all categories of the parish’s life. Because of your involvement and generosity of time, talent, and treasure we have been able to improve and increase our ministries, our gatherings, outreach, and pastoral care. We now have five new leadership committees (*Strategic Planning, Parish Council, Liturgy Committee, Stewardship, CCW*). We have done more outreach and augmented programs for our Youth, and Families. We have increased the number of liturgical ministers and increased the opportunities for formation.

We have been blest to be able to make some updates and improvements to our facilities: office communication system, new vestments and liturgical vessels, new Church roof, improvements to the Convent, relocating the Tabernacle, new Shrine of our Lady of Fatima, new bathroom for families and those disabled. Additionally, because of the generosity of one of our parish family members, the priests have a new house as a rectory, fully renovated, and furnished. These are just some of the accomplishments we have had, and more are on the way!

If we are going to be truthful and faithful to our mission, we must recognize that there is still much more to do. Because we are blessed and much has been given to us, much more must be returned to the Lord. You recently completed a parish survey in which you gave your opinion regarding the strong areas of the parish and what you felt needed improvement. Our parish staff works tirelessly to provide leadership and support to all the ministries and activities, and we are all very grateful for their constant dedication, but this is not the task of just a few people. We have to join together to make it happen. It is the work of the entire body of Christ united in this parish community of Holy Faith: Priests, staff, and parishioners. To continue to move forward to grow and improve we need *faith, conviction, compassion, and commitment*. We also need your *time, your talent, and your treasure*.

The financial statement of our Parish is just a way to evaluate the finance health of the Parish, and a way to evaluate our financial resources to move forward into the future. Although we have a healthy and balanced budget, we need to be prepared to meet the demands of the future not just for financial resources, but also from human resources.

I thank you for all your generosity of heart, for responding to God’s call to be involved, and for allowing me to be a part of your parish family. It is an honor to lead you as your Pastor, and a privilege to serve you. May the *holy faith* of our ancestors continue to guide us in becoming a parish of compassion and mercy.

Let the mission continue...

In Christ,
Fr. Jose Kulathinal, CMI
Pastor

