



FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR | JULY 2026

Dear friends,

The celebration of our nation's independence on the 4th of July — more special this year as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of its founding — along with that of our parish jubilee year, calls for a grander celebration. On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the U.S. bishops consecrated our nation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, calling us to imitate the love and mercy of Christ as a witness to the world. We must each remember that His sacrifice and the shedding of His blood created the one people of God from the division of many nations. When we consecrated our parish and nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, 12 June, we did so in the words of Archbishop William Lori:

“Why do we do this? Because consecration is an act of faith. It is an acknowledgment that history is not simply the story of what human beings accomplish; it is the story of God's faithful love at work in the world. We give thanks for the blessings of these past 250 years, but we do so with humility, recognizing in faith that every nation stands in need of God's mercy, wisdom, and guidance. We consecrate our nation, not because it is perfect, but because it is beloved by God. We entrust to the Heart of Christ our achievements and failures, our hopes and anxiety, our present challenges and our future aspirations. We ask him to heal what is wounded, strengthen what is good, and guide us towards a future marked by justice, peace, freedom, and respect for the dignity of every human person. Consecration is also an act of hope. It is a declaration that the future does not belong merely to political movements, economic forces, or human plans. The future belongs to God. And so we place into His Heart, not only ourselves but generations yet unborn, and all those who will inherit the Church and the nation we leave behind.”

In observance of this significant moment in the history of our nation, the parish office will be closed on Friday, 3 July. However, work will continue in preparation for the planned July 4th celebration at our campus. I'd like to thank in advance the many amazing volunteers who have offered their time and assistance toward making this a memorable experience for all. Please come, celebrate together as a parish family, and let us give thanks to God for our United States of America!

Schedule for Saturday, 4 July 2026:

- Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m.
- Picnic starts at 5:00 p.m.
- Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- Music begins after Mass and continues throughout the evening.
- Patriotic Rosary at 8:15 p.m. at the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes.
- Fireworks at 9:00 p.m.



Please note that the entrance will be closed beginning at 6:00 p.m., after which only our parishioners will be allowed in. Bring your beach chairs and, if you come early, an umbrella for shade.

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Our hearts go out to the Venezuelan people in the aftermath of twin earthquakes that rocked and reeled that nation on 24 June, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude and leaving behind a trail of death and destruction. The scale of need remains significant and continues to evolve, compounding existing humanitarian challenges. The death toll on the day of my writing this note had already exceeded 1700, with over 5000 injured and more than 12,000 displaced. Efforts are ongoing to rescue those trapped in the rubble. According to UN news, "Seven states have been affected, but the greatest concentration of casualties is in La Guaira state and the Distrito Capital of Caracas. Around 2,500 structures were damaged, many of which have collapsed entirely. Adding to this predicament a tropical wave is threatening to bring heavy rains to affected areas."

At this time of great humanitarian need, we not only offer our prayers for all those affected but also [active participation in solidarity with the Disaster Relief 2026 collection](#) during the weekend of July 4/5 at all Masses. Please make your checks out to St. John the Evangelist and write in the memo, Disaster Relief 2026. Bishop John Noonan states: "The funds collected in this special appeal will be used to support the efforts of the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church, Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, as they and their local agencies respond to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, and medical care, and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts." Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Please note that Fr. Monk Malloy, President Emeritus of Notre Dame, will celebrate Mass on Sunday, July 26, at 11 a.m. Fr. Monk is a noted author, professor, speaker, and an amazing priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

As you continue to enjoy watching World Cup Soccer, please remember to stay connected with God, church, and yourself.

Have a pleasant and enjoyable summer!

Love,

Fr. John 

July 2026 Calendar Highlights

Friday, July 3:

ALL DAY Parish Office Closed (Independence Day)

3:00 p.m. First Friday Devotion (Church)

Saturday, July 4:

9:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass (Church)

4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass & 4th of July Celebration following

Sunday, July 12:

5:30 p.m. Annual CRHP Reunion Dinner (Hall)

Wednesday, July 15:

11:30 a.m. CCW Children's Hunger Project Luncheon & Fundraiser (Hall)

Friday, July 17:

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Hurricane Prep Rally & Senior Fair (Hall)

7:00 p.m. Kerygma Healing Service (Church)

Sunday, July 19:

1:00 p.m. Sensory Friendly Mass (Hall)

Sunday, July 26:

11:00 a.m. Mass with Fr. Monk Malloy, President Emeritus of Notre Dame & Notre Dame Student Sendoff Luncheon following (Church & Hall)

Find these dates and more online at www.StJohnViera.org/Calendar