Annunciation of the Lord Parish

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October 28, 2026
Feast of Ss. Simon and Jude

Dear Parishioners,

May God's Grace be with all of you. It is my pleasure to write to you once again to inform you about the state of our parish.

As the core reason for a parish's existence, we begin, as always, with the Sacraments. This year we have Baptized 2, gave First Holy Communion to 12, Confirmed 6, Married 1 couple, and mourned 18 at their Funerals. Working with our friends at St. Nicholas on a joint Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), we worked toward the reception of 4 last year into Communion with us, and this year, I am pleased to report that we have 9 (9!) in formation to join us at the 2027 Easter Vigil.

Thanks to the many dedicated groups at our parish, we are quite active. Thanks in particular to the Knights of Columbus, the Women's Guild, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, our many lectors, Eucharistic ministers, servers, musicians, and the Irmandade do Espírito Santo.

It is this last group that I'd like to single out for special thanks. The work they put in toward the celebration of the seven Sundays of Easter, their devotion to the Holy Spirit, and the feast Mass of Pentecost, and the meal that follows is truly gargantuan, and it is all for the benefit, spiritual and material, of our parish. To the members of the Irmandade, from all of us, muito obrigado!

Each year during the Easter season, members of our parish gather every day in the hall to pray the Rosary together, and pray that through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the Holy Spirit will descend anew on them and the Church, enlivening within them the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord - one week for each gift. On Sunday, at Mass, there is a symbolic crowning of a family with these gifts. On Pentecost, after Mass, there is a meal (sopas) that is shared by all, regardless of rank or status, free of charge.

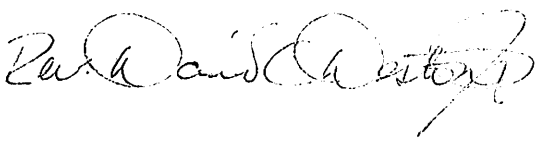
As this devotion originated in Portugal and the Azores, it has mostly been done in Portuguese. The Irmandade and I have come to the conclusion that this limits the scope of this devotion and stifles the movement of the Spirit. Beginning this coming Easter season, the devotions will switch from primarily Portuguese to primarily English. Some parts will continue to be in Portuguese to honor its source and origin, but to aid in the understanding of all, booklets will be available that are side-by-side translations so everyone can participate. It is the Irmandade's, and my, fervent wish that the entire parish come together to invoke the Holy Spirit on us, our families, our parish, our nation, and the whole world, and grow in devotion to Him. Please join us as often as you can during the Easter season to pray together, and be together in the Spirit's loving embrace.

Indeed, the reason that this is so important now is that I believe that the Spirit is active in a way that is different from the recent past. As mentioned above, there are 9 individuals who are seeking membership in the Church, and attendance at both Annunciation and St. Nicholas has ticked up ever so slightly. It is not just in the Weir and Dighton, though. Across the Diocese, and really, the whole country, there is a different "vibe" within the Church, and it is, I believe, important to seize and to build upon it. I want this moment to begin a renewal of faith and fervor both in our parish and beyond.

On the financial and maintenance front, we're in good shape. We've done some work on the campus to improve safety - filling the cracks in the front and back lots, relining, and putting in a walkway. Our receipts for the year came to $255,001.73, an increase over last year. However, our expenses also went up to $313,030.64. While much of that increase was due to one-time expenses, we must remain vigilant. On the Catholic Charities front, we raised $11,740. Thank you for that on behalf of those who benefit from your generosity.

I realize this one is a little longer than usual, but I hope you will indulge me by allowing me to express my gratitude for the gift that you are. Your presence at the Eucharistic Table inspires me to strive to do better in all ways every day. Together, nourished at the altar of the Lord, we journey together on our pilgrimage of faith. May Our Blessed Mother intercede for us before the Lord, and may He, with the Father and the Holy Spirit bless us, our parish, our families, and all we hold dear. Strengthened by the Blessed Sacrament and the blessing of the Triune God, may our fidelity and Easter joy be a witness to our neighbors and a call to join us at the Feast of the Lamb. With every prayerful good wish I am proud to be,

Devotedly Yours in Christ,



Rev. David C. Deston, Jr.
Pastor