

10 February 2022
Saint Scholastica, virgin

Dear Friends,

Next week, I'll be away on my annual retreat. Since our "summer retreat" last year, we've been recognizing the importance of having a mini-retreat experience every day. At least 20 minutes a day for **TPG**. That is, setting aside **T**ime, in a **P**lace dedicated for prayer, in order to reprioritize our relationship with **G**od.

In addition to our daily mini-retreats, it's also important to get away on an actual retreat, if we can. In fact, priests and religious brothers and sisters are *required* by Canon Law to make an annual retreat. We do this in order to follow the example of Jesus, who often went away to a quiet place (such as a mountain) to spend extended time praying to God (Luke 6:12).

Perhaps it makes sense for priests and religious to go on retreat, since it's our "job", so to speak, to be about religious things. It is a privilege and a blessing to be able to do this. However, all disciples of Jesus Christ are called to follow His example in a way that is appropriate to their vocation and circumstances in life, which includes getting away to pray. Our Archdiocese Retreat Center in Federal Way has recently begun to schedule retreats again—check out their website for more information: <https://archseattle.org/archbishop-brunett-retreat-center-retreats/>

During my absence, I'm grateful for our good friend, Fr. Lyle Konen, who will be presiding at Masses. The Mass schedule will be the same as typical—except for Saturday morning, February 19th, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with Communion at 9:00 a.m., led by Deacon Marco.

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Let's keep praying for peace, unity, and healing, and let's keep making personal decisions each day with our own thoughts, words, actions, and prayers that contribute to peace, unity, and healing in our world!

Yours in Christ through Mary, Queen of Peace

Fr. Chad

