

March 15, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We are midway through Lent and so Mother Church calls us to “rejoice!” The command is given – *Laetare* – “Rejoice!” Mother Church clothes herself in rose as a mark of joy as we shift from the first part of Lent to the forthcoming Passiontide. *Rejoice!*

This Sunday, March 15, the parish will once again host two blood buses. I encourage all parishioners who are able to please sign up and give blood. As Christians, we serve and cherish life. Giving blood is a part of this mission. [You can sign up here.](#)

Also, this Sunday, March 15, the parish will host its annual Personal Hygiene Items Drive. All parishioners are asked to bring one or more of these items with them to Mass: kid-size toothbrush, kid-size toothpaste, and Dove bars of soap. These items will go to our community partners and will be distributed to people and families right here in Lancaster County. Parishioners can drop off the items in the pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be there to assist you.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This week, we released our [Biannual Financial Report](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Brock Conner, our Business Manager, at bconner@charlestandiocese.org.

Our Pastoral Associate, MJ Wallace, recently posted on our website a list of all our parish ministries. [Please take a look](#) and get involved!

Parishioners who participate in our morning programs are invited to be a part of Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM. Parishioners who participate in our evening programs are encouraged to be a part of Evening Prayer (Vespers) and/or Adoration from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

For Lent, we will continue to attempt to have our Monday Noon Masses outside at the Holy Angels Columbarium. The Masses are in honor of the Faithful Departed. Parishioners are invited to come and bring a chair or blanket with them. If there is inclement weather, or temperatures under 55 degrees, then the Mass will be moved indoors.

As a reminder, we have the Stations of the Cross every Monday at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting of our monthly Gianna Caregiver Support Group is this Thursday, March 19, at 10:30 AM. If you provide direct care, or manage the care of an adult loved one, this group is for you!

This Friday evening, March 20, at 5:30 PM, we have our final extra Mass for Lent. All are welcome. Please note that we do not have an evening Mass on March 27.

The [calendar for the program year 2025/2026](#) is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all our events and programs for the year. This is posted for your reference and information.

Some other events I'd like to highlight:

On Saturday, March 21, our parish lectors will have their newly established annual Day of Recollection. We thank our parish lectors for their service and pray for their ministry.

I'm looking at the possibility of creating a Mental Health Committee of our parish Pastoral Council. I'm looking for nurses, social workers, and professional counselors who might be interested in serving on this committee. If you're in these professions and are interested, please reach out to me directly at:

Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandioocese.org.

As we plan ahead, please note the day and times of the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday (April 2), Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM; Good Friday (April 3), Solemn Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon and the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM; and the Great Easter Vigil (April 4) at 8:30 PM. Our Easter Sunday Masses (April 5) will follow our regular Sunday Mass schedule: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM.

Thanks be to God! Last week, we received a \$160,000 donation toward Mary's Grotto! And so, we now have **\$500,000!** We have now exceeded our goal of \$485,000. As we move forward, however, I ask for your continued support of our "Capital Projects." I would like for us to have additional funds in case we exceed the original cost projections. If we don't use the collected funds, we can roll the funds over to some of our other capital projects.

As a reminder, Phase Two of Mary's Grotto will enlarge the size of the Grotto, extend its height, and add a large patio area with an outdoor altar in front of the Grotto.

LAST CALL! I'm happy to further announce that in addition to two Dominican Sisters, there will be *six Franciscan Sisters* joining my five-day pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe this coming May! The presence of the Sisters will be a tremendous blessing for all the pilgrims! I very much look forward to offering Mass at the shrine, as well as to visiting the other holy places in the area, especially those associated with the [Cristero martyrs](#). If you're able, please consider coming on the pilgrimage! *Everyone is invited!* [Here is more information.](#)

As a reminder, our parish staff can be readily reached via email. [Here is the staff directory.](#)

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

In Christ,

Father Jeffrey Kirby

Very Rev. Jeffrey F. Kirby, STD, VF
Pastor/Dean of Rock Hill Deanery
www.frkirby.com