

From Father Kirby...

November 29, 2020

Happy Advent, Team Grace! This is the holy season in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord! I encourage each parishioner and every family of the parish to use this sacred time to draw ever-closer to the Lord Jesus!

With the beginning of Advent, we move from Saint Matthew's Gospel to Saint Mark's Gospel. It's been a great liturgical year with Matthew, but now our attention turns to Mark! Please note that there are some superb Bible resources on [FORMED](#).

Some things happening around the parish:

This Sunday, we bless the parish's Baby Jesus, as we get ready for the coming of the Lord. The blessing reminds us of the purpose of this penitential season, namely, to prepare the way of the Lord!

Happy Gingerbread Day! I hope every family of the parish enjoys decorating their gingerbread house at home.

This Monday and Tuesday, November 30 – December 1, I'll be preaching a Parish Mission at Saint James Parish in Conway, South Carolina. While I'm away, Father Gahan will be visiting the parish. He'll have special Confession times from 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM on both days, as well as 12:45 PM – Until the Last Penitent. Father Gahan will also be celebrating and preaching our daily Masses on these days. Welcome, Father Gahan!

As a reminder, our Wednesday Bible Study is now on hiatus until January 6. All [previous sessions](#) can be viewed on our Grace Lily page.

Following our homily series on the end-of-life care, several parishioners have followed up with me about the best possible advanced directives. For those in South Carolina, the diocese has a Catholic version that is very good. You can [access it here](#).

As the holidays approach, many families will want to assist those in need. As a help, [here is a list](#) of our local community partners and their respective needs.

This coming Friday – Saturday, December 4-5, the diocese will be hosting a livestream Women's Retreat. I'll be serving as the retreat leader. All women are welcome to register and be a part of the retreat. More information can be [located here](#).

Please note that all parishioners will have an opportunity to make (or renew) their [Consecration to Jesus through Mary](#) on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8). If you'd like to make (or renew) that Consecration, please be sure to make some form of preparation over the next few weeks.

My new book, *Living in Peace*, is going to be released this week for Advent. You might recall that the book is a modification of the homilies I gave during the lockdown this past Spring. If you're interested, you can order a copy of the book [here](#).

As reviewed by our Director of Operations before every Mass on every fourth Sunday of the month, please note our [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Pandemic Protocols](#).

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