

***From Father Kirby...***

**January 31, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we make our journey through Ordinary Time, Saint Mark tells us about the Lord's battle with dark forces. Today, he exorcizes a demon and shows the power of his authority. In our lives, are we allowing the Lord to expel bad spirits and sins? Do we seek and rely upon his authority?

Today, we continue our five-week homily series on the biblical notion of mercy and of our call to be a People of Mercy.

Some things happening around the parish:

As a quick update, Team Grace, I'm happy to announce that our Capital Campaign currently stands at \$760,000! Thanks be to God! You might recall that we need \$850,000 to purchase Catholic Land (the 53 acres down Highway 521). We are very close, Team Grace! Thank you for the generosity of so many! Once we purchase the land, the seller will turn around and give the parish a \$100,000 gift. With this gift, we can initiate the Master Plan of Catholic Land and break ground for our new prayer garden and columbarium!

Last week, I mentioned the recent letter from the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to the new President of the United States. For your information, [here](#) is a copy of the letter.

Our parish tax letters were mailed out late this past week. If you have any questions, please contact our Parish Bookkeeper, Sally Santimaw at: [ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org).

This Monday, we have our parish Holy Hour from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Confessions will be available. As a reminder, Adoration will always happen on Monday evenings, but not Confessions. As needed, please check the [Parish Calendar](#).

This Tuesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days after the Lord's Birth, he is presented in the Temple. Following the Law of Moses, as the legal "first-born" of Our Lady, he is consecrated to God.

After this feast day, the statue of the Christ Child is removed from in front of the ambo and all our Christmas flowers are taken away.

Our weekly Bible Study continues this Wednesday. This week we'll continue our talk on the Call of Abraham in Genesis 12. As a reminder all previous lessons can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

This coming Saturday, February 6, is First Saturday. Confessions will be at 10:30 AM. Our monthly Healing Mass will be at 11:00 AM. The Anointing of the Sick will be offered.

As a help to our spiritual lives, I want to recommend the [Winter Conference of the Escriva Institute](#) on February 4-11. The conference this year is based on a homily by St. Josemaria Escriva (whose statue is in our parish church). The conference will emphasize the ways in which we can find God in the richness of ordinary life. The event is free.

If anyone is interested, my new book from Our Sunday Visitor, [Way of the Cross for Loved Ones Who Have Left the Faith](#), is available on Amazon. The devotional was written as a spiritual resource to help get loved ones back to the Faith.

As a reminder, please read and review 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)!