

From Father Kirby...

February 14, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! In our Gospel reading today, the Lord Jesus continues to heal those around him. Are we aware of how much the Lord desires to heal us? Do we ask him for his help in our hurts and sufferings?

Happy Valentine's Day! May all the love-birds of the parish enjoy this beautiful feast day in honor of one of our great martyrs!

Today, we conclude our five-week homily series on mercy with a summary of the preparation for our Consecration to Saint Joseph. After all the Masses, the preparation books will be available for free. The book will guide us through the preparatory period, which begins on Monday, February 15 (with the Consecration happening on March 19).

This weekend, we honor the great presidents of our nation's history, and we ask for God's continued blessings upon the United States of America. In honor of President's Day, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 15. There will be no public Mass. All day events are cancelled. Our evening Holy Hour from 7:00 – 8:00 PM will still be held. Confessions will be offered.

Some things happening around the parish:

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Please note that we will have Masses at 7 AM, 11 AM, and 7 PM. Ashes will be distributed by elongated Q-tips. Masks can be worn, at the parishioner's discretion. Confessions will be available after each Mass.

Due to Ash Wednesday, there is no Bible Study this Wednesday. As a reminder all previous lessons can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

For Lent this year, our Stations of the Cross will be prayed via livestream. Every Friday at 6:00 PM, the Stations will be available on Grace Lily. Parishioners and families are invited to pray the Stations at that hour, or later when they're able.

Our next Formation Day is Saturday, February 20, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon. The theme of the day will be: "The Real Vatican II: The Mission and Legacy of the Church's 21st Ecumenical Council."

As a help to your planning, I'll be away on vacation from February 22 – 26. We will not have public Mass on these days. The daily Rosary, our devotions, and Adoration will still be offered in-person and via livestream.

The parish is in need of additional volunteers to count the offertory collection. Please consider this essential ministry. The count is done on Sundays from 12 Noon – 2:00 PM. We are hoping to have enough volunteers so that counters only have to serve once every four to six weeks. If you're able to help the parish in this way, please reach out to Ryan Kubic, our Director of Operations: rkubic@charlestdiocese.org.

Please note that our holy water container is back in the narthex of the church. There are free bottles available by the container. Please feel free to take holy water home.

As I mentioned last week at all the Masses, our sound system recently crashed. We've sent our sound panel to be repaired. We're hoping it will return within the next week or two. In the interim, we're using an auxiliary system and strategically placed speakers through the worship space. We know it's not perfect. Please be patient. We'll restore the full sound system as soon as possible!

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)!