

From Father Kirby...

February 21, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The great season of Lent has begun! We walk these solemn forty days in preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Paschal Mystery, namely, his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. As we walk through Lent this year, we'll be hearing from Saint Mark's Gospel. Today, we are told of the Lord's temptations in the desert. The Lord placed God the Father above all things. Do we? Is our life marked by a surrender to God?

This is the third weekend of the month, and following our new custom at the parish, Confessions will be heard after all the Masses. Please make use of this great sacrament!

Some things happening around the parish:

Today, February 21, is the seventh day of preparation for our Consecration to Saint Joseph. If you've fallen behind on the preparation, it's easy to catch up! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to grow in the spiritual life!

For Lent, our homily series will be on the Ten Commandments. There is much for us to discuss about the way of life we are called to live as the children of God. This Sunday, we'll discuss the First Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Exodus 20:2-5; Deuteronomy 5:6-9; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2084-2141).

Parents: Please note that on the weekend of March 13-14, the 6th and 9th Commandments will be preached on. These relate to sexual morality. The homily will mention and address sexual matters. Please prepare your children for the homily, or exercise the dispensation and have them stay at home.

This coming week, I'll be away on vacation (February 22 – 26). We will not have public Mass or Confessions on these days. The daily Rosary, our devotions, and Adoration will still be offered in-person and via livestream.

This Wednesday, we'll still have our weekly Bible Study. Due to my vacation time, the session will be pre-recorded, but will still premiere live at 6:45 PM. We'll discuss Abram and Sarai in Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20). As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions 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.

As a reminder, [here](#) are the Church's directives on Lenten fasting and meat abstinence.

As previously mentioned, the parish is in need of additional volunteers to help 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.

Some of you are aware that every Sunday, I write a spirituality column on Crux. If anyone is interested, [here is the link](#) to the weekly columns.

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)!