

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

**February 7, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we continue to move through Saint Mark's Gospel. The Evangelist describes the Lord Jesus as the Healer and Consoler of those who are ill and suffering. In the sequence from last week to this week, we see that the Lord not only destroys evil, but he also builds up what is right and good. In our lives, do we seek to be a healer and consoler to those around us?

Today, we continue our five-week homily series on the biblical notion of mercy. This Sunday, the figure of Saint Joseph will be introduced as an example of a just and compassionate person. This introduction to Saint Joseph is to help get us ready for our preparation for a Consecration to Saint Joseph, in honor of this Year of Saint Joseph declared by Pope Francis.

Please note that next weekend, we'll be distributing the books for the Consecration to Saint Joseph after all the parish Masses. The preparation begins on February 15 (with the Consecration occurring on March 19).

Some things happening around the parish:

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!

You may have noticed that the front hill of our parish campus is being cleared. This has been a project that has been discussed for the past couple of years. I'm grateful to see it finally happening! Once everything is cleared, people will finally be able to see the actual front of our beautiful church building!

If you know of a parishioner who has joined another parish, please ask them to let us know so that we can remove them from our parish census. In like manner, if you know of someone who has made Our Lady of Grace their spiritual home, please encourage them to register as a formal parishioner.

Our parish tax letters were mailed last 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 *not* be available. As a reminder, Adoration will always happen on Monday evenings, but Confessions will rotate on their availability. As needed, please check the [Parish Calendar](#).

Our weekly Bible Study continues this Wednesday. Since our Bible Study was cancelled last week, due to some unexpected matters that demanded my attention, this week we'll stay and still explore the Call of Abram, as found in Genesis 12:1-9. As a reminder all previous lessons can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

Please remember that Monday – Wednesday at 4:00 PM, I give a Daily Briefing on the various events and happenings in the parish. Those Briefings can be viewed live or later on [Grace Lily](#).

As a help to our spiritual lives, I want to recommend the [\*Winter Conference of the Escrivá Institute\*](#) on February 4-11. The conference this year is based on a homily by St. Josemaria Escrivá (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.

Please note that our next Formation Day will be Saturday, February 20. The event will be by livestream only.

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)!