

From Father Kirby...

March 7, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Our Lenten journey continues! In today's Gospel Reading, the Lord Jesus purifies the Temple. He fulfills the prophetic warnings against false worship and calls us all to adore God in spirit and truth. Are we seeking to worship God with all that we are? Are we compromising God, and turning him into a mere projection of ourselves? Do we need the Lord to come and purify our hearts?

Currently in our Congress, a new law is being proposed. It is called the "Equality Act," but it has nothing to do with equality. It is an attempt to legislate an aggressive attack on houses of worship and faith-based organizations who do not support the LGBTQ+ movement. As Christians, we must make our voices heard. Please visit [this link](#) for action items. Also, [here is a link](#) to a recent homily I gave on the Equality Act.

Some things happening around the parish:

Parents: If your child is within the years of their First Holy Communion, and you would like for them to receive their First Holy Communion this year, please reach out to Brice Griffin as soon as possible: bgriffin@charlestdiocese.org.

Today, March 7, is the twenty-first day of preparation for our Consecration to Saint Joseph. I've been inspired by several of the reflections, as I hope you have been. I pray that every parishioner makes this powerful Consecration on March 19!

In speaking of the Saint Joseph Consecration, I'm very grateful to the parishioner who reached out and inquired about the expense of the preparation books and, once knowing what the parish paid, donated the entire cost of the books to the parish. This gracious act was done in honor of her late mother, who had a strong devotion to Saint Joseph. Thank you to our donor!

Our Lenten homily series on the Ten Commandments continues this Sunday. We start the "second tablet" of the moral law, which pertains to our relationship with our neighbors. Deacon Doc will be preaching on the Fourth and Fifth Commandments: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2197-2257); and, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2258-2330).

Parents: Please note that next weekend (March 13-14), we'll preach on the 6th and 9th Commandments. 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 home.

Please note our [bi-annual Financial Report](#) in this week's electronic newsletter. Please email any questions to Sally Santimaw, our Parish Bookkeeper, at ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org.

In speaking of our Business Office, I want to welcome Sandy Petrizzo as our new Assistant Bookkeeper. Sandy comes to us with knowledge and experience in non-profit business and bookkeeping. Welcome, Sandy!

As Sandy takes this position in the Business Office, Joy Maddox rotates out of the Business Office and stays on our Nursery Staff (which is on hiatus for the pandemic). Thank you, Joy, for your work in the Business Office!

This week, we concluded our Daily Briefings. Starting this coming week, we'll only have a once-a-week Weekly Briefing on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM. In the review, I'll give a broader summary of events and developments here at the parish. All parishioners are invited to tune in live, or to watch the Briefing later at their convenience on Grace Lily.

This Wednesday, our weekly Bible Study continues. We'll discuss Abram's Ransom of Lot (Genesis 14:1-16). 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.

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)!