

From Father Kirby...

May 16, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. The mystery lies at the heart of our redemption, as the Lord brought his glorified human nature into heaven with him. By this act, he has assured for us the possibility of salvation, as his human nature is our doorway into eternity with God.

This Sunday at the 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have our annual May Crowning. The devotion is a declaration that Mary is the Queen of our hearts, homes, and of our parish! I'm pleased to have Eileen Davies do the crowning this year. Eileen is very active in our homebound ministry. Thank you, Eileen!

This weekend, we conclude our homily series on the Creed. I'll preach on the resurrection of the dead (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #[988-1019](#)). As we end our walk through the Creed, I want to thank Deacon Doc for his willingness to be a part of this series. With the extensive content in the *Catechism*, it required two homilists. Thank you, Deacon!

Even though Deacon Doc and I covered a lot of the content in the *Catechism*, we did not cover everything on the Creed. As such, I encourage each of you to pick up the *Catechism* and read it regularly as a help to your faith.

This Sunday is our last 12:30 PM Outdoor Mass. Please note: *we will no longer have a 12:30 PM Sunday Mass*. The Mass was begun as an additional Mass only for the Easter Season.

In preparation for Pentecost next weekend (May 22-23) - when all the baptized are asked to wear red to worship - we will be selling red Grace Lily shirts again after all the Masses this weekend. Please purchase one in support of Grace Lily and our evangelization efforts!

Some things happening around the parish:

Thank you to everyone who sent in cards and emails for my birthday. I'm humbled and encouraged by your kindness. Thank you!

For several months now, I've been looking for a Director of Christian Formation, who has training in theology and catechetics. Regrettably, the process has not been promising so far. The position will coordinate many of our formation programs, including our Children's Faith Formation. As I assess programs for the coming year,

the filling of this position will be critical to some of my decisions for the parish. If you know of anyone who has this type of training, please ask them to forward their resume to Ryan Kubic, rkubic@charlestandiocese.org. Please pray for the success of this search.

This Tuesday, May 18, I'll be in Columbia with the Bishop for the quarterly meeting of the Presbyteral Council. Father Tim Gahan will offer Mass and hear Confessions that day. He has agreed to start Confessions at 10:30 AM (a half hour early).

Our weekly parish Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We'll discuss Abraham's intercession for others (Genesis 18:16-33). As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

Next weekend, there will be many changes to our church building and pandemic protocols. With the clarification from the CDC that COVID-19 is not passed via surface touch, our changes will include:

- The ropes will be taken down at the 9:00 AM Mass. The ropes will remain at our two Saturday evening Masses until later in the summer.
- Hymnals will be restored to the pews. Please note the hymn numbers on the hymn boards near the altar.
- Our holy water fonts will be restored to the entrances of the worship area.
- The vigil candles near Our Lady and Saint Joseph will be available again for devotional use.
- Prayers can be offered in the church after the Masses.
- We will no longer wipe down the pews after the Masses and the church building will be open between Masses.
- The Quiet Room will be open, but only accessible through the worship area.

These are some of our initial changes. Others will follow in the course of time as we work to restore everything back to a greater sense of "normal."

Some developments on the purchase of [Catholic Land](#)! The General Counsel of the diocese and our local attorney are reviewing and formalizing the purchase contract. Things continue to move forward. I'll give more updates as they occur.

As a reminder, 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)!