

From Father Kirby...

May 23, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate the Pentecost! Fifty days after the Paschal Mystery, namely, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit ratified his covenant with humanity and fell upon the apostles and Our Lady. The same Holy Spirit is given to each of us at Baptism and Confirmation. He dwells within us seeking to bring forth God's kingdom in us and through us!

Thank you to everyone who was able to wear red this weekend! The color red symbolizes the tongues of fire by which the Spirit came upon the Church, as well as the passionate love that God has for all his children.

Some things happening around the parish:

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

Starting this Monday, May 24, the daily Masses will resume a two-line procession for the reception of Holy Communion, and all three stations for Holy Communion will distribute the sacrament on both the tongue and hand. This is only for our *daily* Masses (and not the weekend Masses).

Our weekly parish Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We'll discuss God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-29). As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

Please note the [July Rachel's Vineyard](#) retreat in the diocese. This is a retreat for the healing and encouragement of any mother or father who has gone through an abortion.

Our Hospitality Committee is back up and running. The members are taking care of our Thursday afternoon post-Mass fellowships outside. In addition, starting June 27, we will resume our fourth Sunday Fellowship Sundays! But the committee needs some additional members! If you can help, please call the Front Office. We'll forward your name to Regina Smith, who chairs the committee.

The parish has taken on some new security measures: The doors of the church building will now be locked when Mass begins. If you are late, please knock on the door and a staff member will let you in. Also, as a deterrent, new signs indicating the surveillance of our campus have been posted. A new fence will be placed along

the side and back of the rectory. Local sheriff deputies will again be present at different weekend Masses. These measures are all preventative and are being done to preserve the safety and wellbeing of our parish.

The process for the purchase of [Catholic Land](#) continues. There are no significant updates at this time. Our lawyers are working out the details for the contract. I'll give any updates as they occur.

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@charlestdiocese.org. Please pray for the success of this search.

As a reminder, every Sunday, I write a spirituality column on Crux. If anyone is interested, [here is the link](#) to the weekly columns.

Please be sure to read and review our revised and updated [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Pandemic Protocols](#).

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!