

From Father Kirby...

August 1, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

During the summer, our liturgical year has us in Ordinary Time. The season presents us with the core teachings of the Lord Jesus. As we hear his proclamation, we are invited to re-commit ourselves to him. And so, we should ask: Have we surrendered ourselves to him? Is there an area of our lives that still needs conversion? This is the time, Team Grace! This is the moment to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and to lay down our lives completely to him!

Today, we are again hearing from Saint John. As Mark's gospel is so short, Mother Church uses John's gospel to complete the year. In the Gospel Reading, the Lord Jesus begins the famous "Bread of Life Discourse." This is the most systematic teaching on the Eucharist.

Some things happening around the parish:

Our weekly parish Bible Study is now on hiatus until September 15 (please note the adjusted date). As a reminder, all our Bible Study sessions can be found on our [Grace Lily](#) page.

With our Bible Study, High School Formation, and Middle School Formation starting on September 15, we will begin registration for the youth formation programs in mid-August. More announcements are forthcoming.

This Friday, August 6, we will resume Nocturnal Adoration on the [First Fridays](#) of the month. Prayer will begin after the evening Mass at 7:00 PM and continue until 10:30 AM the next morning (August 7). Please be generous with your time and consider signing up for an hour of prayer for this monthly all-night vigil of our parish! Please note that Confessions will be heard from 8:00 PM – Midnight.

This Saturday, August 7, is the [First Saturday](#) and our monthly Healing Mass at 11:00 AM. Anyone in need of the Anointing of the Sick is encouraged to come. Confessions will be heard before Mass from 10:00 AM – 10:40 AM.

Next weekend, August 7-8, is our first full weekend, which means Confessions will be heard after all of our Sunday Masses (the Saturday evening vigil Mass and those on Sunday morning).

For the women of the parish, I'm happy to announce that Carole King will be expanding her role on our staff and will serve as our new "Coordinator of Spiritual Formation." Carole holds a graduate degree in theology and has vast experience in spiritual direction through the Secular Franciscan Order. Among other duties, Carole will be offering spiritual direction for any woman of the parish on Wednesday afternoons. The sessions are free. If any woman would like to schedule an appointment, please email Carole directly: carole.king@charlestdiocese.org.

The parish census continues. This week we are waiting to hear back from any households who received the initial phone call from the Front Office.

As a reminder, we always have incense at the 11:00 AM Mass. If you are not comfortable with incense, or you have allergies, please plan on participating in a different Mass.

Unless you're attending a parish event, please note that access to the parish campus after nightfall is discouraged. If you have a pastoral need, please email me. My emails go directly to my phone and I will promptly receive it and answer you.

For [Catholic Land](#), our local operations team continues to review architectural firms to determine which company we want to work with on our master plan. More developments are forthcoming.

As we move through the year, please note that our entire [parish calendar](#) is available on our website.

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 Protocols](#).

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

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