

*From Father Kirby...*

**October 31, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

As a part of Ordinary Time, this Sunday gives us another portion of the teachings of the Lord Jesus. It's an invitation to re-commit ourselves to him. It's a call to lay down our lives in his service and to follow his way of love. Today, we hear the *Shema*, the highest prayer of God's people in the Old Testament. The Lord repeats it in our Gospel reading. It's a clear summons to give the Lord everything. As a help to applying the *Shema* to our lives, we can place its challenge within the Offertory of the Mass.

During the Offertory, we are to give ourselves to the Lord as a living sacrifice. The instrumental music is meant to assist us in this important task. Here at Our Lady of Grace, we do not pass a basket during the Offertory, so that you can focus on the spiritual work at hand. And so, hear the *Shema* and use the Offertory of the Mass well. Give your entire life to the Lord!

Some things happening around the parish:

In the narthex after all the Masses, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday-Saturday (November 5-6).

We also have sign-ups in the narthex for our Christmas Children's Choir. All children are invited to be a part of this seasonal choir!

This Sunday, around 12:15 PM, we'll have our monthly Fellowship Sunday. All parishioners are invited to come and share some doughnuts and conversation with fellow parishioners! All are welcome!

*Please note that as of Saturday, November 13, our electronic newsletter will be sent out on Saturdays between 4:00 – 7:00 PM.*

Following our Town Hall meetings, our professional staff is currently doing research on many of the ideas that were voiced, as well as making a few off-site visits to sister parishes or local churches that have similar programs or resources as those raised by our parishioners. In addition, Ryan Kubic, our Director of Operations, and myself are meeting with representatives of our architects, [Wagner Murray Architects](#). Next month, the parish Finance Council will meet and give another review of the ideas

and suggestions raised by parishioners. I'll give more updates as we walk through this process.

Please note that the obligation for the feast of All Saints, November 1, has been suspended this year since the Holy Day falls on a Monday.

On Tuesday, November 2, we have the traditional three Masses for All Soul's Day. The 7 AM Mass is a Quiet Mass in the church. The Noon Mass is at the columbarium. It will have a bagpiper and is followed by the Blessing of Niches. The 7 PM evening Mass will be a High Mass and includes the Reading of Names.

For the Reading of Names, we are collecting the names of anyone who has died within the past year (November 1, 2020 – November 1, 2021). If you lost a loved one within this time frame, and would like their name to be announced in the Reading of Names on the feast day, please email the names to Johnny Rusciollelli: [jrusciollelli@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:jrusciollelli@charlestdiocese.org).

As a reminder, according to ancient custom, the All Souls' collection and envelopes go directly to the priest. The envelopes are a request of the faithful to the priest for his prayers for their loved ones. The envelopes are kept in the rectory chapel after the month of November and Masses are periodically offered for the people listed on the envelopes throughout the year.

Our parish Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We'll continue to walk through the Book of Genesis as we discuss Jacob's Deception in Chapter 27 (verses 1-45). The study is done in-person and is livestreamed on Grace Lily.

Our Women's Faith Formation begins this Thursday, November 4, from 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM in the Parish Hall. The program has been paid for by the parish and is free to parishioners. No preparation is needed. A nursery will be provided. *All women are invited to join the study!*

Our operations staff continues to prepare the logistics for the two Religious Sisters from the [Sisters of Saint Michael the Archangel](#) who will join our parish staff this summer. Please pray for these preparations!

As a reminder from last week, the parish is pushing back the launch of our elementary school faith formation to the Fall, so that the Sisters can compose and prepare their own preferred program this summer.

On Wednesdays, I've started a new hour-long show on Patreon entitled, "[Father Kirby LIVE.](#)" The program is interactive and seeks to dynamically present the Faith, as well as address any questions that are sent in by patrons. Please consider joining the show! Since this is not a parish-based program, there is a small fee for participation.

With our census recently completed, I want to remind everyone to please keep your information up-to-date. If you change your phone number, mailing address, or if you are leaving the parish, please let us know. We want to keep our census as current as possible.

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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