

From Father Kirby...

November 14, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

This weekend, we begin the conclusion of Ordinary Time. We are told in the biblical readings about spiritual warfare and the End Times. We are reminded to be ready and to fight the good fight!

Some things happening around the parish:

Our [new parish website](#) has launched. Please visit the new site. Most of the content is the same. The site was just redesigned and given a general updating.

Please note that as of this weekend our electronic newsletter is now sent out on Saturdays between 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

Our parish Bible Study continues this Wednesday. We'll continue to walk through the Book of Genesis as we discuss Jacob's Dream at Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22). The study is done in-person and is livestreamed on [Grace Lily](#).

This coming Saturday, November 20, from 9:00 AM – Noon, we'll have our next Formation Day. We'll discuss "Redemptive Suffering and Christian Discipleship." All are welcome. No registration is needed. The event is free. It is in-person and will be livestreamed on Grace Lily.

Our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir will lead us in sacred music at the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, November 21.

Next weekend after all the Masses, we'll be distributing free Team Grace winter hats. The hats are a visible reminder of an important invitation: On Saturday, November 27, at 8:30 AM, I'm inviting the entire parish family to join me in a peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion in front of the abortion clinic in Charlotte. The address is 700 S. Torrence Street, Charlotte, NC. *Please plan to bring your family or friends and join me in this public prayer for the protection of all human life!*

Also next weekend after all the Masses, copies of my new book, [Manual for Suffering](#), will be available for purchase. The manual presents the depth and beauty of the Church's theology of redemptive suffering.

With Children's Faith Formation moved to the early Fall, we will not have a communal First Holy Communion Mass this year. Any parent who would like for their child to receive Confession or their First Holy Communion on an individual basis should email me for details. Otherwise, second grade children will receive the sacraments next year.

Please note that preparation for [Consecration to Jesus through Mary](#) formally started on November 5. There will be opportunities to make (or renew) your consecration on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

If you are taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, are you taking advantage of the qualified charitable distribution (QCD)? If not, you may want to contact Angie Letourneau at aletourneau@carolina.rr.com to get information on how to structure your cash contributions to get a tax break!

This coming week, our parish Finance Council will meet and give a review of the ideas and suggestions for [Catholic Land](#) during our recent Town Hall meetings. I'll give more updates as we walk through this process.

For any woman who has had abortion, or for others who have experienced an abortion (ie, father, grandparent, etc), the Rachel's Vineyard retreat is an opportunity to receive spiritual and emotional help in the healing process. [Here is more information.](#)

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)!

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