

From Father Kirby...

November 21, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today we celebrate the high feast day of Christ the King. As we near the end of the liturgical year, we declare Jesus Christ as the Lord of our lives. We seek to follow him in all that we do! We submit our lives to him and proclaim him king of all!

How can you better surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? What parts of your life still need to be dedicated to him?

Some things happening around the parish:

We welcome Michael Claiborne to the parish staff! Michael serves as our new Director of Communications and Community Relations. He has a background in corporate communications and public relations. He and his family just moved here from South Korea, where he worked at the American Chamber of Commerce as Head of Government and Corporate Affairs. Michael's experiences and knowledge will certainly help to advance the mission of the Catholic Church in Lancaster County and beyond. Welcome, Michael!

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.

Thank you to our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir who is leading us in sacred music at the 11:00 AM Mass this weekend.

This weekend, after all the Masses, we'll be distributing free Team Grace winter hats. Thank you to the donor who made these hats possible. The hats are a visible reminder of an important invitation: this coming 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 3220 Latrobe Drive, 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 this 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.

This Monday, November 22, I'll be away for meetings in Charleston. There will be no Confessions during the day and no public Mass. All devotions will still be celebrated, including our evening [Holy Hour](#) (which will have Confessions available).

Our parish Bible Study, High School Formation Program, and Middle School Formation Program are all on pause this Wednesday, November 24. We'll see everyone next Wednesday, December 1.

In honor of Thanksgiving, the church building and Parish Office will close at 1:00 PM this Wednesday, November 24. The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, November 25. Our parish Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 AM on Thursday. All are welcome!

Next Sunday, we start the Advent season. At our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have a children's homily and the blessing of the parish Baby Jesus. Small Baby Jesus figurines will be given to the children.

Next Sunday, around 12:15 PM, we'll have our annual Gingerbread Day in the Parish Hall. All children are welcome! Each child will receive their own free gingerbread house to decorate!

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 deduction (QDC)? 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 past week, our parish Finance Council met and reviewed some of the ideas and suggestions for [Catholic Land](#). There will be some more research and feedback from our architects before the council's next meeting in January. I'll give more updates as we walk through this process.

For any woman who has had an 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 note that our electronic newsletter is now sent out on Saturdays between 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

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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