

*From Father Kirby...*

**November 28, 2021**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today we begin a new liturgical year and a new season within the year. We've left Ordinary Time and are now starting Advent. The season of Advent is a penitential season (similar to Lent). It's a time to prepare our souls for the coming of the Lord Jesus. We recall his historical coming at Bethlehem. We rejoice in his coming to us in the sacraments. And we especially focus on his Second Coming at the end of time. As we walk through Advent, be sure to use this season well. Prepare the way of the Lord!

With our new liturgical year, we move from Mark's Gospel to Luke's Gospel. As a help in understanding Luke's Gospel, the parish is distributing [workbook-style commentaries on Luke](#) after all the Masses this weekend. Please be sure to pick yours up! I'm grateful to the donor who made these books possible!

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration next Friday- Saturday (December 3-4). Please note that – for this month only - our First Friday Mass will be at 6 PM and Adoration will begin at 9:00 PM. Please give an hour of prayer to the Lord!

Some things happening around the parish:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Parish Prayer Outreach at the local abortion clinic. It was a blessing to see so many parishioners join in the prayer crusade for the end of the horror of abortion.

On Sunday 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 all the children.

Also, on 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!

Our parish Bible Study, High School Formation Program, and Middle School Formation Program will meet this Wednesday, December 1.

This Friday, December 3, our parish is blessed to have international human rights activist and noted author, [Uju Ekeocha](#) visiting us. Uju will give a talk at 7 PM on

the culture of life. A wine and cheese reception will follow in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

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](mailto:aletourneau@carolina.rr.com) to get information on how to structure your cash contributions to get a tax break!

The professional staff continue to review some of our ideas and suggestions for [Catholic Land](#). This coming week, I and Ryan Kubic, our Director of Operations, have a meeting with [our architects](#) to revise and update some of the details on our Master Plan. I'll continue to give more updates as we walk through the process, and I look forward to our Spring Town Hall meetings when the Master Plan will be presented and proposed to the entire parish.

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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