

From Father Kirby...

December 12, 2021

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today, we reach a mid-point in the Advent season! Called Gaudete “Rejoice” Sunday, Mother Church lightens her penitential violet and clothes herself in rose. The color change is meant to catch our attention and remind us to deepen in our preparation for the coming of the Lord. Are we using our Advent well? Are we preparing for the coming of the Lord in our own lives?

Some things happening around the parish:

For your future planning, I’ll be away on vacation this Monday-Wednesday, December 13-15. There are no Confessions or daily Masses on these days. *All our devotions, the Rosary, and our Adoration time will still take place.* I was initially planning to go and preach an Advent Mission in Florida, but my father’s condition is worsening faster than anyone could have anticipated. As such, I’ll be in Columbia with my father and family. Please pray that my father will have a peaceful, holy death.

Thank you to our Saint Cecilia Girls’ Choir for leading us in sacred song next Sunday, December 19, at our 11:00 AM Mass.

As noted in my Weekly Briefing, we are currently moving dirt from the hill in front of the church entrance to the hill on the frontside of our property facing the highway. While this project will take several weeks, once it is completed, we will have a beautifully landscaped area at the front of our entrance and a sloping hill in front of the church!

We’ve put some new gates at the entrance and exit of our church campus. The gates will be closed after hours, and when the campus is closed, as a precautionary and safety measure.

Our parish Bible Study, High School Formation Program, and Middle School Formation Program are all on hiatus until Wednesday, January 12.

The parish is very happy to offer a special Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Washington, DC. [More information can be found here.](#)

As we near the end of the tax year, and as our current capital campaign comes to a close in February, please be as generous as possible to the campaign. The current campaign will provide the fiscal resources to begin building our prayer garden and columbarium on Catholic Land.

Related to the above: 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 donate to the parish and structure your cash contributions to get a tax break!

The professional staff continue to review some of our ideas and suggestions for [Catholic Land](#) as we prepare for the Spring Town Hall meetings when the Master Plan will be presented and proposed to the entire parish.

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 Pandemic Protocols](#).

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

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Patreon: Weekly LIVE show: Wednesdays 8:30 -9:30 PM (ET)
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