

*From Father Kirby...*

**February 27, 2022**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Glory be to God! Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed a new Bishop for our diocese! [Father Jacques Fabre](#) is now the Bishop-Elect. He will be ordained a Bishop on April 29 and assume the pastoral leadership of the Diocese of Charleston. Please pray for our new Bishop! As the leadership of our diocese transitions, you will notice that no Bishop is mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer. This is a spiritual observance of the Church that indicates a diocese is waiting for a new shepherd.

This weekend, we unveil and bless the new statue of [Saint Charles Lwanga](#). During the weekend Masses, I'll preach on the life of this spiritual older brother. In light of his story, he is the patron saint of [Courage International](#) and the unofficial patron saint of those who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender disorientation.

This Sunday, around 12:15 PM, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

Some things happening around the parish:

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this Friday-Saturday, March 4-5. Last month, we had 432 adorers! I pray we exceed that number this month. Please be generous with your time and sign up for a Holy Hour. During the Nocturnal Adoration, the parish will distribute small Lenten devotionals to all our adorers.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. All the faithful are invited to come and receive ashes as we begin the penitential season of Lent. Our Masses on Wednesday will be at 7 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM, and 7 PM. Confessions will be available after all the Masses.

For anyone who might be interested, I've recently completed a Lenten program through Catholic Company. The program gives daily reflections throughout the penitential season. Entitled, [Holy Lent](#), the program is designed to help participants go deeper in their discipleship.

As a reminder, [here are the Church's norms](#) for fasting and abstinence during Lent.

As we enter Lent, I want to let the parish know that we will not have public Stations of the Cross this year. Instead, the parish will distribute free Stations books and

parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and pray the Stations during our parish Holy Hour on Mondays from 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

On February 28, we conclude our capital campaign. During our campaign, we were able to pay off our mortgage, support our Bishop's charitable outreach, purchase [Catholic Land](#), and compose a Master Plan for Catholic Land. We currently have about \$1,000,000 left in our campaign account. With these funds, we will begin to build our new prayer garden and columbarium on Catholic Land. We plan to get as much as possible out of this one million dollars! Whatever we build of the prayer garden and columbarium, it will give us a foundation to build upon as we move forward. *Thank you to everyone who contributed to our campaign!* You are helping our parish to be ready and prepared for the future!

In speaking of the Master Plan for [Catholic Land](#), I'm very excited to present the plan to the entire parish during two parish Town Hall meetings on Tuesday, April 26, one at 1:00 PM and another at 7:00 PM. *I strongly encourage every parishioner to attend one of these sessions!*

In looking at some future events, I'd like to highlight:

On Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13, a guest priest from [FOCUS](#) will be celebrating and preaching our parish Masses. FOCUS does an immense good for the work of the New Evangelization. It is a blessing for us to get to know the group better!

On Monday-Wednesday, March 14-16, I'm taking some vacation time. As such, we will not have public Masses or Confessions on these days.

On Monday, March 21, from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, we are blessed to host [Treasures of the Church](#). This is a Vatican-approved display of relics combined with teaching and prayer. Please plan to come and be a part of this holy night!

On Wednesday, April 6, at 7:00 PM, we will have a public talk at the parish by the papal biographer of Pope Saint John Paul II, Prof. [George Weigel](#). The event is open to the public.

I'm happy to announce that Bishop Robert Guglielmone will be at the parish on May 3 for Confirmation. Any baptized Catholic Christian, who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older, who would like to be Confirmed is encouraged to reach out to Johnny Rusciollelli, our Operations Assistant and Liturgy Coordinator, for more information: [jrusciollelli@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:jrusciollelli@charlestdiocese.org).

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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