

From Father Kirby...

August 21, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

As we make our way through Ordinary Time, each of us are called to open our hearts more widely to the Gospel and to look for new ways in which we can deepen in our discipleship to the Lord Jesus.

This weekend, we continue our walk through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Eucharist. This is a part of our parish's observance of the [National Eucharistic Revival](#).

For some time, I've been promoting [FORMED](#), which is the Catholic livestream service our parish covers so that every household has free access to wholesome, faith-based content. As an encouragement, I'm going to start highlighting content I'm watching on [FORMED](#). This past week, I watched *Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz*. I first saw this presentation in-person when I was in college. Watching it as a video, reminded me of the glories of Saint Maximilian Kolbe and the need we have for his witness and intercession today.

Some things happening around the parish:

This weekend in the narthex, we have free parish car magnets and Catholic emergency cards. We ask that you please consider putting our parish magnet on your car and that you place emergency cards in the glove box of your vehicle, as well as your wallet or purse.

In the narthex, we also have continued sign-ups for our Saint Cecilia Girl's Choir. All young women of the parish are welcome and invited to join.

This Sunday, August 21, the parish is happy to host [Project-2-Heal](#) around 12:15 PM. The non-profit will host a "Puppy Sunday" in our pavilion. Please plan to come and see the new puppies and share in some joyful fellowship!

Please note our new [calendar for the program year 2022/2023](#) is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all of our events and programs for the coming year.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

As previously announced: For the coming year, we will only have one session of Children's Faith Formation on Wednesdays from 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM. We will have classes for 2nd grade through 12th grade. We will not be able to have a Kindergarten or First Grade class. For a child to be registered in the program, at least one parent must be signed up for the Adult Formation program (Bible Study) at the same time.

It's my hope to expand the program through the next couple of years as the number of children increase in our parish.

Registrations can be done through our Front Office or on [the ad on our website](#). As a reminder, all children who are signed up must be from families who are registered at the parish.

As a sign of our commitment to Christian formation, there is no fee for the program.

Our next Prayer Outreach will be this coming Saturday, August 27, at 8:30 AM. All are invited to come and pray the rosary at the abortion clinic at 3220 Latrobe Drive in Charlotte. Please come and join your parish family in peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. A free bus is provided. Please stop by or contact the Front Office to reserve a seat: parishoffice@gracewepray.org.

Please note that I'll be away for a couple of days on Tuesday-Wednesday, August 30-31. There will be no Mass or Confessions on these days. Our devotions and Adoration will still take place.

On Thursday, September 8, at 10:30 AM, our Women's Faith Formation will resume here at the parish. All women are invited! No registration is needed. Materials are provided at no cost. For more information, please contact Carole King: carole.king@charlestdiocese.org.

On Sunday, September 11, around 12:15 PM, we'll celebrate our Fall Festival. We'll have a Ferris Wheel, Merry-Go-Round, Chick-fil-A sandwiches and nuggets, an ice cream truck, and other food and fun activities. All are welcome! The event is free – it has been paid for by our tithe and a few large donors.

Beginning Monday, September 12, at 6:30 PM, the Spiritual Society of Saint Monica will host the praying of the Stations of the Cross for those who have left the faith every second Monday of the month. The Stations will be prayed in the church. The books are provided. All are welcome!

Starting on Monday, September 12, from 1:00 – 2:00 PM, the parish Book Club will resume. The first book of the club this year is *The Gift of God: The Holy Spirit* by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR. For more information, please contact Deacon Doc: bdonofrio@charlestandioocese.org.

Deacon Doc will be hosting an information night on the RCIA process on Monday, September 12, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM. This RCIA is the process by which an adult is prepared for baptism or for a full reception into the Catholic Church. The event will be held in Room 1 of the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Deacon Doc: bdonofrio@charlestandioocese.org.

I'm happy to announce that next summer, June 2023, I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. Here's an [invitatory video](#). And here's [the link](#) to the website with more information. Please note this is not a parish pilgrimage. I am taking this pilgrimage on vacation time and inviting others to join me. Other friends and supporters will come from other parts of the country and be a part of the pilgrimage.

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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