

From Father Kirby...

August 7, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

In the Church's rich liturgical year, the season of Ordinary Time is an opportunity for believers to re-hear the Gospel and re-commit themselves to the Lord Jesus. In our discipleship, are we using this opportunity to deepen in our relationship with the Lord Jesus?

As a parish, we are also using Ordinary Time to review the various sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Eucharist. This is a part of our parish's observance of the National Eucharistic Revival.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our Nocturnal Adoration this weekend and encourage even more parishioners to participate in this spiritual opportunity. Our Nocturnal Adoration for next month will be on September 2-3.

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 *Ocean of Mercy*. The film recounted the lives of Pope Saint John Paul II, Saint Faustina, and Saint Maximilian Kolbe. It focused on the shared theme of mercy in the lives and teachings of these great saints.

Some things happening around the parish:

After consulting various families of the parish, I've come to realize how many have moved to Catholic schools or have begun homeschooling since the pandemic. This shift affects our Children's Faith Formation program. This change has led me to adjust and reduce our original plans.

For the coming year, we will only have one session of Children's Faith Formation 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.

In observance of the [National Eucharistic Revival](#), our parish will host a display of the [Church's Eucharistic Miracles](#) next weekend, August 13-14. The display will be held in the Parish Hall and will be available after all our weekend Masses. Please plan to stay after Mass and spend some time viewing the accounts of these great miracles!

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 the horror of abortion becomes clearer in our society, there is an immense need for healing for those who have been through an abortion. The retreat [Rachel's Vineyard](#) is being held in our diocese later this month (August 26-28). The parish is happy to provide any assistance to parishioners who would like to attend this private retreat.

Please note that the obligation for the Solemnity of the Assumption (August 15) is lifted this year. The holy day falls on a Monday, and so the Church dispenses from the obligation to participate in Mass. As such, we will only have our regular Noon Mass on August 15. All are welcome!

The parish is happy to welcome [Project-2-Heal](#) on Sunday, August 21, 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!

Our next Prayer Outreach will be 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.

For anyone who has been away, I want to repeat: It's my sad duty to report that the Sisters of Saint Michael will not be coming to our parish, as we had hoped. As details were being finalized with the Order, our partnership ended up not being possible at this time. Like many of you, I am very disappointed by these developments. As we

move forward, I will continue to search for Religious Sisters and hope one day to welcome Sisters to the parish.

As a way to honor the donations that have been made to the “Support Our Sisters” collection, the total amount received will be donated to the Sisters of Saint Michael in support of their mission and ministries throughout the Church. Anyone who might prefer to receive their donations back, however, is asked to contact me directly. We’re happy to reimburse any donations that were made to the Sisters.

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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: @fatherkirby