

From Father Kirby...

October 16, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate blood this Sunday! If you didn't sign up here, you can contact [One Blood](#) for a donation at their center in Ballantyne. In addition, the blood bus will be back on our campus on January 15.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in our parish Food Drive! All of the collected food will go to [HOPE in Lancaster](#). Thank you to the volunteers of our Helping Hands ministry who are assisting with the logistics of the food collection.

Here are some things happening around the parish:

All children First Grade and under are invited to participate in our weekly Philomena Fellowship on Tuesdays from 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM. The fellowship is an opportunity for young parents and children to have time together and celebrate our Faith.

All women of the parish are invited to join in our weekly Women's Faith Formation on Thursday mornings from 10:30 – 11:40 AM.

This coming Saturday, October 22, we will have our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility (3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC). All parishioners are encouraged to come to this peaceful, prayerful protest in defense of human life. A free bus is available from the parish. Please email or stop by the Front Office to reserve your seat!

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.

I'd like to encourage every family in the parish to register for [FORMED](#). This is a free digital platform with family friendly content.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

On Saturday, October 29, I'm happy to welcome [Father Dwight Longenecker](#) to the parish for a mini-retreat from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The title of the retreat is:

“Prayer, Healing, and Our Lady’s Rosary.” No registrations are needed. All are welcome!

Please note that Tuesday, November 1, is the Solemnity of All Saints. The feast is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. Our Mass schedule here is: October 31 at 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM; and, November 1 at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. Confessions will be heard after all the Masses.

The feast of All Souls is Wednesday, November 2. All the baptized are encouraged to come and pray for the repose of the souls of their loved ones. Our Masses are at 7:00 AM, 12 Noon at the Columbarium, and 7:00 PM.

Here’s a quick summary of our All Souls traditions:

- *The Reading of Names:* This solemn tradition occurs at the 7:00 PM evening Mass *and is reserved only for those people who have died within the last liturgical year (from November 2 to November 2).* Anyone who has lost a loved one during the past liturgical year is asked to send in their names to John Paul Rusciollelli: jrusciollelli@charlestandiocese.org.
- *The Book of the Dead:* The Book is placed near the baptismal font on November 1 and remains there throughout the month of November. Anyone who has died can be written in the Book of the Dead, regardless of when or how long ago they may have died. Those who are written in the Book of the Dead will be remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful throughout November.
- *The All Souls collection and envelopes:* On the envelopes, the faithful list their loved ones and ask their pastor to remember them in his Masses and prayers throughout the year. This is the only time when a collection and envelopes go to the pastor.

Our next First Friday and First Saturday are November 4-5. Please plan to give an hour of prayer during our Nocturnal Adoration.

We’ve been able to reschedule our Ferris Wheel and Merry-Go-Round to Sunday, November 6. We’re adding a few other activities and are calling the event the “All Saints Festival!” More details will follow soon!

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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