

*From Father Kirby...*

**October 9, 2022**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

As we celebrate this month of October, our hearts naturally turn to the rosary of Our Blessed Mother. I encourage everyone to pray (or deepen in their prayer) of the holy rosary. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Rosary Procession this weekend!

Here are some things happening around the parish:

As a Papal Missionary of Mercy, I'm periodically asked to give missions or retreats. I try to keep these at a minimum. My next Mercy Mission, however, will be this coming week, October 10 – 14. I'll be giving a Parish Mission at Saint Helen's Parish in Georgetown, Texas. While I'm away, we will not have Confessions or public Mass. All other prayer and formation events will still take place. *Be sure to participate in the life of our parish!*

On Monday evening, October 10, at 6:30 PM, we'll have our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the faith. All are invited to come and pray for their loved ones who have left the Church.

Next weekend, October 15-16, the parish will host a Food Drive. All of the collected foods will go to [HOPE in Lancaster](#). We are only collecting three food items: cereal, boxed stuffing, and spaghetti sauce (in plastic bottles – please no glass). Thank you to the volunteers of our Helping Hands ministry who are assisting with the logistics of the food collection.

Next Sunday, October 16, we will host a blood bus from [One Blood](#). Sign-ups are required for blood donations. Please [register here](#). As a pro-life people, I ask all parishioners to please consider giving blood. There is an urgent need for blood in our immediate area! Please sign up!

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.

As a reminder, 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 22, we will have our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility. 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!

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. Anyone who has lost a loved one during the past year is asked to send in their names for the *Reading of Names* at the 7:00 PM Mass. Please send the names to John Paul Rusciollelli: [jrusciollelli@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:jrusciollelli@charlestdioocese.org).

As a reminder, by ancient tradition, the All Souls' collection and envelopes go to the local pastor. On the envelopes, the faithful list their loved ones and ask their pastor to remember them in his Masses and prayers throughout the year.

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!

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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