

From Father Kirby...

December 11, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today, we celebrate Gaudete “Rejoice” Sunday. This is one of only two “Rose Sundays” in the liturgical year. It marks the middle of Advent and it shifts to the preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Most of Advent is about preparing for the Second Coming (and our particular judgment), but after Gaudete Sunday, the focus is now preparing for the Lord’s Nativity.

In honor of Gaudete Sunday, Confessions will be heard after all the Masses this weekend.

As a reminder: As we enter Advent, we move to a new cycle of readings from the Bible and switch from Luke’s Gospel to Matthew’s Gospel. As a help to learning more about Saint Matthew’s Gospel, the parish is providing free workbooks on Matthew’s Gospel. The workbooks are available in the narthex after all the Masses. The book is entitled “The Gospel of Matthew” and is available on [Amazon](#).

This Sunday, we conclude our Advent homily series on the Catholic Funeral Mass. As we wrap up our review of the Funeral Mass, I want to encourage parishioners to please pre-plan their funerals with the parish. Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Music, is happy to meet with any parishioner and go through the pre-planning process. Monty can be reached at mbennett@charlestandioocese.org.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

Our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the faith will be this Monday, December 12, at 6:30 PM.

On Tuesday, December 13, we will not have our regular Noon Mass. I’ll be in Charleston for meetings with the Bishop, and a retired priest was not available for coverage.

Our Faith Formation on Wednesday evenings is on hiatus until January 4.

Our annual Live Nativity will be held Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00 PM. The children of the parish are hosting the event and all are welcome!

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 household of 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:

I'd like to ask for your opinion on whether our Monday daily Mass should remain at Noon or whether it should be moved to 5:30 PM. While no time is perfect for everyone, it's my hope to make a daily Mass more available to those with different schedules. Please let me know your thoughts.

If you are taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, are you taking advantage of the qualified charitable distribution (QCD)? Please consider doing so and remembering your parish in your charitable giving. If you're not sure what this is, or how to give to the parish, please contact Angie Letourneau, a member of our parish Finance Council, at aletourneau@carolina.rr.com to get information on how to structure your cash contributions to get a tax break.

The Solemnity of the Lord's Nativity, "Christmas," is Sunday, December 25. Come, let us adore him! Our Mass schedule for the parish is: December 24 at 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, and 10 PM; and, December 25 at 10:00 AM. *Please note that this schedule replaces our regular weekend Mass schedule.*

As is our custom here at Our Lady of Grace, the parish campus is closed the week after Christmas, December 26 - December 30. There are no public Masses on these days. All other activities are suspended.

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@charlestandiocese.org
Website: www.frkirby.com
Twitter: @fatherkirby