

*From Father Kirby...*

**December 4, 2022**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

We continue our way through the liturgical season of Advent. Be careful of the secular Christmas that surrounds us. It is not our Christmas as believers. It has nothing to do with Jesus Christ and is a pre-celebration and twisted version of our holy day. Stay the course. Be attentive to Advent and its lessons!

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.

Our Advent homily series is on the Catholic Funeral Mass. As we discuss the Funeral Mass, I would 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@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:mbennett@charlestandiocese.org).

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

As a reminder, our Wednesday Faith Formation sessions are on hiatus until January 4<sup>th</sup>.

This Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule is Wednesday, December 7, at 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM; and, Thursday, December 8, at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.

Opportunities to make or renew the Consecration to Jesus through Mary will be offered before every Mass of the Immaculate Conception.

Confessions will be available after all the Masses, except the 7:00 PM Mass.

Please note that the 7:00 PM Mass on December 8 is also our parish's Anniversary Mass. We will be six years old as a formal parish! As such, our 7:00 evening Mass will conclude with a crowning and bagpipe, candlelight procession to Our Lady's statue at the entrance of our campus. After the Crowning of Our Lady, we'll have some hot chocolate and snacks down by Our Lady's statue. All are welcome!

Due to the Holy Day, please note that we will not have a daily Noon Mass on Wednesday, December 7. In addition, we will not have the rosary, novena, or Adoration in the afternoon on Wednesday.

Next Sunday is Gaudete “Rose” Sunday. This marks the middle of Advent and is the traditional day when Christians begin to decorate their homes for Christmas. In honor of Gaudete Sunday, Confessions will be heard after all the weekend Masses.

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](mailto:aletourneau@carolina.rr.com) to get information on how to structure your cash contributions to get a tax break.

Our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the faith will be 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 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!

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.*

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](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org)

Website: [www.frkirby.com](http://www.frkirby.com)

Twitter: @fatherkirby