

*From Father Kirby...*

**January 15, 2023**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we return to Ordinary Time. This liturgical season is an opportunity for us to hear again the Gospel and to recommit ourselves to the Lord Jesus.

This weekend as a nation, we honor Martin Luther King and the heroic leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. May God bless their good work and may the United States always live up to her founding principles.

*Thank you* to everyone who participated in our Diaper Drive this weekend and *thank you* to all those who signed up to give blood. Thank you for being strong witnesses to our defense and love for life.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

In honor of the national holiday, our parish campus will be closed this Monday, January 16. There is no public Mass or Confession. All other events are suspended.

Our tax letters will be mailed out this coming week. Thank you to everyone who financially supported the mission of our parish this past year! If you have any questions, please direct them to our Parish Bookkeeper, Sally Santimaw: [ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org).

Every Tuesday morning, our parish is happy to host the Philomena Fellowship from 10:30 – 11:45 AM. The fellowship is for children in the First Grade and under and their parents.

Every Thursday, from 10:30 AM – 11:40 AM, the Women's Faith Formation meets. Currently, the group is walking through the biblical names of the Lord Jesus. All women are welcome to join the group!

This Saturday morning, January 21, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, we have our next Formation Day. Our theme for our session is "The Life and Teachings of Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI." The day will focus on his teachings relating to the sacred liturgy, faith and reason, and the theological virtues. No registration is needed. The event is free. 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:

Some of you may have noticed the new niche near the statue of Padre Pio. Next Sunday, January 22, at our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll be blessing and reposing a relic of the beloved saint in the niche. It is a great joy for us to welcome the relic of such a devoted follower of the Lord Jesus! Our monthly Fellowship will follow the 11:00 AM Mass.

Deacon Doc will be moving our parish Book Club to Tuesdays from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, starting January 23. The book club is currently walking through [Sanctify Them in Truth: How the Church's Social Doctrine Addresses the Issues of Our Time](#). The book walks through various moral questions in our society today.

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is on the fourth Saturday of the month, January 28, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and join us in this peaceful, prayerful protest in defense of life.

On Thursday, February 2, we'll celebrate the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) at our Noon Mass. All parishioners are encouraged to come and bring any candles they'd like to be blessed.

Our Deacon Candidate, Tom Heath, will be ordained a permanent deacon by our Bishop on Saturday, February 4, at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Charleston. All are welcome and invited to attend the Ordination.

Our 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 12, will be our future Deacon Heath's Mass of Thanksgiving. *All parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and celebrate our new Deacon's Ordination.* A reception with personal Diaconal Blessings will follow the Mass.

On Sunday, February 19, around 12:15 PM, we'll have our parish Mardi Gras celebration. We'll have some food, bouncy houses, desserts, and a lot of fun. The event is free. All are welcome!

The parish is happy to host a pilgrimage to the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament on April 12-14. [Here is the link](#) for more information.

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@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:mbennett@charlestdioocese.org).

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

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

Twitter: @fatherkirby