

From Father Kirby...

January 29, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The liturgical season of Ordinary Time is an opportunity for us to discern and evaluate our discipleship. It calls for honest answers and for a deepening of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus.

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-ups for our monthly Nocturnal Adoration. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord Jesus and your parish family.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

This Thursday, February 2, we'll celebrate the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) at our Noon Mass. Forty days after our Lord's birth, in accordance with the law of Moses, he is solemnly presented in the Temple. During the visit, he is hailed as a light to the nations. In observance of this feast day, the candles of the parish are blessed and all parishioners are encouraged to bring any candles they'd like to be blessed. The remainder of the Christmas flowers are removed on this feast day and the Baby Jesus statue – which has been in front of the ambo - is recessed out after the Mass.

The feast of Saint Blaise, February 3, falls on First Friday this year. We will still offer the traditional Blessing of Throats, but will do so during our Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM. All are welcome! After the Mass, we have Confessions until Midnight.

This coming Saturday, February 4, we have our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. 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:

Our Deacon Candidate, Tom Heath, will be ordained a permanent deacon by our Bishop this coming 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.

On February 6-9, the priest of the diocese will be on their annual convocation with the Bishop. There are no public Masses on these days. In full transparency, I've been dispensed from the convocation this year. My mother is having a third knee surgery on February 6, and I'll be with her for her recovery.

As Providence would have it, after waiting for some time, the railway has approved our project to remove the hill of dirt at the entrance of our church building. And so, the same week as the priest convocation, the contractors are going to come and move the dirt. This will be an extensive project! *For the safety of all, and as a help to the quick work of our contractors, we will close the campus the week of February 6-10. All activities and events are suspended.* The campus will be closed, but staff will work remotely and still be available to you as needed.

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!

On March 4-5, the parish will send a group of young people to the [Diocesan Youth Conference \(DYC\)](#) in Columbia, SC. Any high school student who would like to attend should reach out to John Paul Rusciollelli: jrusciollelli@charlestdioecese.org. Please reach out soon as seats are filling quickly.

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.

Our tax letters were recently mailed out. 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@charlestdioecese.org.

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.

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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