

*From Father Kirby...*

**February 5, 2023**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We have just a few weeks of Ordinary Time remaining. I encourage you to invest in your discipleship and identify ways in which you can more greatly love and serve the Lord Jesus. Ordinary Time is about discipleship. How is your discipleship?

Congratulations to Tom Heath who was ordained a permanent Deacon by our Bishop on February 4. Deacon Heath will now serve our parish as a Deacon! We are blessed to have him with us! *Congratulations, Deacon Heath!*

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

This Monday – Thursday, 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 in Columbia 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, this coming week, 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.

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

On Sunday, February 19, around 12:15 PM, we'll have our annual parish Mardi Gras celebration. We'll have some food, bouncy houses, desserts, and a lot of fun. 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:

On Monday, February 20, the parish will observe Presidents' Day. There will be no public Mass or Confessions on that day. All other events are suspended. We ask God's continued blessings upon the United States of America!

Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year. Our Mas schedule here at the parish is 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Confessions will follow all the Masses.

As we prepare for Lent, I'd like to make you aware of a Lenten program I did with the Catholic Company. Entitled, "[How to Read the Bible](#)," the program dives into the specifics of how the Church approaches and reads the Bible. While there are many programs about \*what\* to read in the Bible, this program focuses on \*how\* to read the Bible. If you register and use the promo code "OLG20," you'll receive a 20% discount.

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)!

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