

From Father Kirby...

February 26, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

We are now in the holy season of Lent. It is a sacred time of renewal. We are called to evaluate our discipleship and declare our love for the Lord Jesus. Do not let anything distract you. Keep your focus on the Lord Jesus and on the reliving of his Paschal Mystery every day.

During Lent, please note that the Church takes on certain penitential practices: the color violet is used; the “Gloria” at the beginning of Mass is paused; the “Alleluia” is suspended throughout the Mass; flowers and festive music are halted; and, here at our parish, we reduce our altar candles from six to two. All of these are external reminders to us of the purpose and goal of Lent.

This weekend, Monsignor Karl Chimiak continues to assist with our parish Masses. It’s a blessing to have a retired priest helping us here at the parish!

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration next Friday and Saturday, March 3-4. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family.

Our Stations of the Cross for Lent will be held on Mondays at 7:00 PM. The Stations will begin this Monday, February 27. All are welcome!

We pray for the young people of the parish who will be away for the Diocesan Youth Conference on March 4-5.

This Friday evening, March 3, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart. Confessions will follow the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This Saturday morning, March 4, at 11:00 AM, we have our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. All in need of the sacrament are encouraged to come. Starting in March, we will have a free brunch after the Healing Mass.

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 Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, we'll have our next Formation Day. Our theme will be "Discipleship and the Sacraments of Healing." All are welcome! No registration is needed.

On the weekend of March 18-19, we'll have a personal hygiene collection. The items will go to the Women's Enrichment Center. The center requests the following items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo-body wash (two in one), and deodorant for women.

On Sunday, March 19, we'll once again host a Blood Bus as a parish. All parishioners who are able are encouraged to give blood. As a pro-life people, we serve life however we can. Blood is in great need in our area. Please sign up! *Please note: sign-ups are required.* Here is [the link to sign up](#).

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@charlestdiocese.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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