

From Father Kirby...

March 26, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today, we enter Passiontide. This is the intensified period of Lent. It is a time to go deeper (if our Lent has been a good one), or to begin again (if our Lent has not been very good). As a sign of the seriousness of Passiontide, the Church veils her statues and suspends the use of bells. I encourage you to use this sacred time well. Prepare yourself for the celebration of the Lord's Paschal Mystery!

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday (March 31- April 1). Due to the placement of Holy Week this year, please note that our "First Friday" for April is actually March 31. Please join your parish family and commit to an hour of prayer!

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

Our collection of personal hygiene items last weekend went to both the Women's Enrichment Center and the Missionaries of the Poor. Thank you again to everyone who participated in the collection drive!

This coming Friday, March 31, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart. Confessions follow the Mass and will be heard until Midnight.

This coming Saturday, April 1, at 11:00 AM, we have our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. Confessions will be heard before Mass from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM (please note the additional half-hour of Confessions). After the Healing Mass, our prayer teams are available for intercessory prayer and the parish is hosting a free brunch in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

Next Sunday, April 2, the Solemn Procession of Palms will be held at the beginning of our 11:00 AM Mass. All parishioners are asked to arrive around 10:45 AM and to meet at the statue of Our Lady at the entrance of the parish campus.

Our annual Spring Festival will be after the 11:00 AM Mass next Sunday. For the festival, we'll have some BBQ, a petting zoo, pony rides, and a lot of other activities. All are welcome!

Our parish Administrator and his wife are expecting their fourth child in May! Congratulations, Ryan and Margaret! At my request, they've made a baby registry.

If any parishioners would like to bless this family with a gift on the occasion of their new baby, [please visit the registry here](#).

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:

Please note we will not have Confessions or daily Mass on Monday and Tuesday, April 3-4. I'll be in Charleston for the annual Chrism Mass with the Bishop. The campus and parish office will be opened on Monday (April 3), but closed on Tuesday (April 4).

Our Holy Week schedule (from Wednesday to Sunday) is as follows:

Spy Wednesday (April 5): Confessions 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM; Rosary at 11:30 AM; Mass at Noon; Saint Dymphna Novena at 12:30; Confessions from 12:45 PM until last penitent. Adoration from 12:45 PM – 2:15 PM.

Holy Thursday (April 6): No day events. Parish Office and campus are closed during the morning and afternoon. No 12 Noon Mass. Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM. Confessions from 8:30 PM – 11:30 PM. Adoration (Altar of Repose) from 8:30 PM – Midnight.

Good Friday (April 7): Parish Office closed. Confessions from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM; Solemn Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon; Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM; Confessions from 4:30 PM – 8:00 PM.

Holy Saturday (April 8): Parish Office and campus closed in the morning and afternoon. No 4:00 PM or 5:30 PM Masses. Great Easter Vigil at 8:30 PM.

Easter Sunday (April 9): Mass at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

Please note that the Parish Office and campus are closed for Easter Week, April 10 – 14. There is no public Mass. All activities are suspended.

The Bishop will be here on Tuesday, May 2, for Confirmation. Any baptized person in seventh grade or above can petition to receive Confirmation. Please reach out to John Paul Rusciollelli for more information: jrusciollelli@charlestdioocese.org.

This coming October, 2023, I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain, and Lourdes. Here's the [link to the travel agency website](#) with more information. Please note this is not a parish pilgrimage. I am taking this pilgrimage on vacation time and inviting others to join me. Other friends and supporters will come from other parts of the country and be a part of the pilgrimage.

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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