

From Father Kirby...

April 16, 2023

Happy Easter, Team Grace!! *The Lord is Risen!* He is truly Risen! Today, we conclude the Easter Octave, which are the first eight days of the Easter Season. The Church cannot contain the joy of the Resurrection within one chronological day. An entire octave is needed! Rejoice!

Our Easter Octave concludes with Mercy Sunday. Today is a time to relish in the mercy and compassion of the Risen Lord!

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

Our annual Mercy Service will be held today, Sunday, April 16, at 3:00 PM. We'll have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, readings from Saint Faustina's *Diary*, and a singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All are welcome!

Our Faith Formation on Wednesday evenings resumes this Wednesday, April 19, at 6:30 PM.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is next Saturday, April 22, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come and join us in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive in Charlotte. The parish provides a free bus to any parishioner. Please contact the Front Office to reserve your seat.

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:

Next week, April 24-27, I'll be away for the National Gathering of Papal Missionaries of Mercy. Father Bob Morey will be at the parish. There are no changes to our parish schedule.

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](#).

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@charlestandioocese.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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