

From Father Kirby...

May 21, 2023

Happy Easter, Team Grace! This weekend, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord to the right hand of the Father. After rising from the dead, the Lord Jesus spent forty days with his disciples. After those forty days, he ascended to paradise. We celebrate this mystery of the Lord this weekend. Where he has ascended, we are called to be.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

Thank you to everyone who sent in or dropped off birthday cards for my 48th. I'm grateful for your kindness and encouragement!

Our annual May Procession and Crowning will be at the beginning of our 11:00 AM Mass this weekend. Parishioners are asked to come around 10:45 AM, park their vehicles, and meet at the flags at the entrance of our campus. The Procession is a beautiful way to honor Our Lady. All are welcome!

For the Crowning of Our Lady at the end of Mass, I'm happy to announce that the Crown Committee nominated Angie Letourneau. Angie accepted and it will be a joy to see her crown Our Lady. Angie is a founding member of our parish and was instrumental in the financial and logistical arrangements that made our church building possible. She was recently honored by Pope Francis with the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* honor. Angie facilitates our Nocturnal Adoration sign-ups, leads our monthly Monday Stations of the Cross, organizes parish pilgrimages, and does countless other things in service to our parish and the Gospel. *Congratulations, Angie!*

Our parish May Picnic will be this Sunday, May 21, around 12:30 PM. We'll have a live band, hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, and a lot of fun! All are welcome!

Our Parish Office is now open on Monday evenings from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM so that working parishioners, or those with other commitments, have access to the office for any administrative needs.

As a reminder, our Wednesday faith formation sessions are now on hiatus until the early Fall.

Over the next several days and couple of weeks, every registered household of the parish should have received their first monthly installment of the Liturgy of the

Hours. In full transparency, this is a serious spiritual and financial commitment of the parish. We are investing in our call to prayer!

Next weekend for Pentecost, May 27-28, all parishioners are asked to wear red and to bring their copies of the Liturgy of the Hours with them to Mass. My homily will be a walk-through of one of the hinge hours.

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming Saturday, May 27, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The parish provides a free bus for any interested parishioner.

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.

Periodically, I'm asked for resources to find a good Catholic therapist. The best resource I can recommend is [Catholic Counselors](#), which is a group of Catholic therapists who give digital therapy and life coaching. I would direct any parishioner to this group. If any parishioner needs financial assistance for counseling, the parish is happy to provide whatever assistance is needed. Please email me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandiocese.org.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, we will have a Memorial Mass at 11:00 AM for all our fallen service men and women. After the Mass, we'll have a Blessing of the Memorial Wreath, patriotic hymns, and the playing of Taps.

On Wednesday evening, May 31, at 7:00 PM, author and speaker Gary Zimak will give a presentation on Our Lady. Gary has visited our parish before and has always been very well received by you. I hope many of you can come and hear more about the glories of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On June 10-11, the parish will host a Food Drive for [HOPE in Lancaster](#). They are requesting the following items: Juice (64 oz or bigger), canned beef stew or any canned meat, and jelly (no glass jars).

On June 11, the parish is happy to sponsor two blood buses! Yes, Team Grace, we have exceeded one bus and require two buses to cover the number of our blood donors. [Please sign up to give blood here.](#)

On Sunday, June 11, in honor of Corpus Christi, we'll have a special Eucharistic Procession after our 11:00 AM Mass. All are welcome! After the procession, we'll have some ice cream trucks on campus for our enjoyment!

This summer, I'll be away on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome from June 12-23. While I'm away, [Father Colin Blatchford](#) will be here at the parish. The parish's liturgical and devotional schedule will remain unchanged. All Masses and Confession times are the same.

On Wednesday, June 21, at 7:00 PM, Father Blatchford will give a talk on "Transgenderism and the Catholic Church." Father Blatchford is the associate national chaplain of [Courage International](#), which is the Church's outreach to those who have same-sex attractions and gender dysphoria.

On Friday, June 30, at 7:00 PM, Father Gerald Murray will give a talk at the parish entitled: "Calming the Storm: Navigating the Crises Facing the Catholic Church and Society." A reception will follow the event and copies of Father Murray's book (of the same title) will be given out for free.

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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Daily Reflections are available through MorningOffering.com.