

From Father Kirby...

May 28, 2023

Happy Pentecost, Team Grace! Come, Holy Spirit! Today we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and Our Lady, as well as upon each of us at our baptisms! Thanks be to God! Celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in you!

Thank you to everyone who was able to wear red at Mass this weekend!

This weekend, our nation pauses and honors all those who have fallen in defense of our freedoms. May God grant them eternal rest and may he always protect and bless the United States of America!

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, June 2-3. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family!

Also, this weekend in the narthex, we are distributing free copies of the book, *Into the Deep: Finding Peace Through Prayer*. It's my hope that many of you will add this book to your summer reading list and let it encourage you in the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours and other forms of prayer. The book is donated by the Petrizzo Family in memory of Elaine Vreeland. May she rest in peace.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

Last weekend, I had a blast at the parish May Picnic. It was great to see almost 400 parishioners and guests participate in the picnic. Thank you to everyone who came and to the *many parishioners* who are budding baseball stars! I think I was dunked about thirty times in one hour! Go, Team Grace!

Tomorrow, May 29, is Memorial Day. Our Parish Office is closed in honor of the holiday. All events are suspended except for our 11:00 AM Memorial Day Mass and Memorial Procession and Blessing of the Heroes' Wreath. All parishioners are encouraged to come to the Mass and pray for our fallen service men and women.

This 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.

Our Thursday morning holy hours are now on hiatus for the summer. I encourage parishioners to come to Adoration on Monday evenings, or on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

On Thursday, June 1, our first volume of the Liturgy of the Hours begins. I strongly encourage every parishioner, however they are able, to please begin praying the formal prayers of the Church in their own lives and families.

Also on June 1, we begin what our culture tells us is “Pride Month.” As a reminder, Christians are not to participate in any activities, rallies, or other events that normalize disordered behavior and ways of life. Please pray for those who suffer from same-sex attraction and gender dysphoria.

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@charlestdiocese.org.

Some other future events I’d like to highlight:

On June 10-11, the parish will host a Food Drive for [HOPE in Lancaster](#). The outreach is requesting the following items: Juice (64 oz or bigger), canned beef stew or any canned meat, and jelly (no glass jars). Please bring these items with you to Mass. You can drop them off at the pavilion before Mass begins. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be on-site to assist you.

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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Twitter: @fatherkirby

Patreon: The show, [The Bible with Father Kirby](#) (Wednesdays at 6:30 PM)

Podcast: *Truth be Bold*: On [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#), and [Good Catholic](#)

Daily Reflections are available through MorningOffering.com.