

From Father Kirby...

July 16, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate the Lord's Day, as well as the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Today our 11:00 AM Mass will be our annual Scapular Mass. Every year, I look forward to this Mass! It is an occasion of great grace. All baptized Christians are encouraged to be invested, or devotionally re-invested, in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady. The scapular is a visible sign of our consecration to Jesus Christ. It is a reminder to us that Jesus is the Lord of our lives!

Some things happening at the parish that I'd like to highlight this week:

This weekend, we welcome Deacon Jason Vaughan and his family to Our Lady of Grace. The Vaughan's are old friends of mine from Charleston. They will be visiting the parish for the weekend. Deacon Vaughan will serve the 11:00 AM Scapular Mass this Sunday.

As you may have seen last week in our weekly financial reports, we have started our new fiscal year. I'm grateful to those of you who generously tithe and support the parish! I encourage everyone to see our next fiscal year as an opportunity for renewal and deeper giving to the work of the parish and the Gospel.

As a staff, we are constantly assessing what the real needs of the parish are and how we can be as available as possible. With this in mind, we have realized that there are several hours in which no one comes to the parish office. And so, starting this Monday, July 17, we're going to adjust our public weekday office hours to Monday at 5:00 – 7:00 PM; Tuesday – Thursday from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Our greatest activity is during our weekend hours, and so these hours will remain the same: Saturday 3:30 – 7:00 PM and Sunday 8:30 – 2:00 PM. We remain an email-based staff and I encourage you to email staff members with your needs, thoughts, and appointment requests. [You can find the parish staff directory here.](#)

Everyone is invited to our weekly Monday evening Mass at 5:30 PM, as well as the Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass and the Adoration time that follows until 7:00 PM. Confessions are also available during the Adoration time.

Our Thursday columbarium Masses have now been moved in-doors. The Masses will now be celebrated in the church. We will continue, however, to have outdoor Masses on the Thursdays of Lent. Our Thursday Masses - wherever they may be celebrated - are a blessed time to pray for our beloved dead. Come and remember your loved ones who have gone before us with the sign of faith!

In honor of Saint Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of the Lord Jesus, the parish is happy to give a special blessing to all our grandparents during next weekend's Masses (July 22-23).

Next Sunday, July 23, at 12:30 PM, the parish will have its annual Summer Ice Cream Social. The social will be marked by a visit from an Indian Land fire truck, fire hats for kids, games, activities, Root Beer floats, free t-shirt giveaways, and a whole lot of ice cream! The event is free. *All are welcome!*

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 good Catholic, family-friendly content. I also want to strongly encourage every household to join [EWTN OnDemand](#), which is another free digital platform whose content is supportive of our faith.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

On Wednesday, July 26, I'll be participating in a digital evening program hosted by Good Catholic. I'll give a presentation, as well as Catholic therapist, [Dr. Mario Sacasa](#). The event is entitled, [Find Freedom from Anxiety](#). Please tune in if you think this digital event could help you or a loved one. [You can sign up here](#).

On Thursday, July 27, I'll be celebrating my 16th anniversary of Priestly Ordination. A small fellowship is planned after our Noon daily Mass that day. All are welcome!

The parish is happy to welcome a priest of [FOCUS](#) to celebrate and preach our weekend Masses on July 29-30. FOCUS is the Church's outreach to Catholic college and university students. Many of you might remember our last visit by a FOCUS priest. It's been a little while, and so it's good to host another FOCUS priest and be reminded of the Church's extensive outreach and efforts to minister to Catholic young people in the college and university systems of our country.

While we host a FOCUS priest here at the parish, I'll be away speaking at the [Defending the Faith conference](#) at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

On August 12-13, the parish will host a School Supply Drive. All school supplies are needed. Please bring popular school supplies with you to Mass that weekend. You can drop off any items at the pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be there to assist you.

On Sunday, August 13, the parish will once again host two blood buses. I ask that all parishioners please consider giving blood. As a pro-life people this is one of the important things we're called to do! Please do what you can. Sign-ups are required. [You can sign up here.](#)

On Friday, September 8, the parish will be hosting a one-day visit to Belmont Abbey. I've spoken about the witness and prayer routine of the monks before. This visit will be an opportunity to see it in person! More details are forthcoming.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

The Bishop would like to invite all medical doctors and nurses to spend October 21 with him in prayer and formation. [Here is the invitation.](#)

Some of you may already know, but I now co-host *Truth Be Bold*, which is a podcast on contemporary issues facing Christian disciples. Compliments of [Good Catholic](#), the podcast is free. Recent episodes have addressed the topics of cohabitation, transgenderism, divorce, artificial intelligence, the poustinia prayer method, and many other themes. The podcast is free and can be found in any of the following places: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#), and [Good Catholic](#).

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.

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

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Twitter: @fatherkirby

Patreon: [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](#).