

From Father Kirby...

July 2, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we make our way through the summer, we are observing Ordinary Time in the life of the Church. Ordinary Time is all about discipleship. It's a time for us to re-hear the Gospel and re-commit ourselves to the Lord Jesus.

For this portion of Ordinary Time, we will continue our participation in the [National Eucharistic Revival](#) and resume our series on the parts of the Mass and the part of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Eucharist.

This weekend, we celebrate our Independence Day as a nation. We ask for God's continued protection and blessings upon the United States of America!

In observance of the national holiday, the parish campus will be closed this Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4. All events are suspended. There is no public Mass.

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

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, July 7-8. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord Jesus.

This coming Friday evening, July 7, we have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM. Confessions begin after the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This coming Saturday, July 8, we have our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM. Confessions precede the Mass from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. Our prayer teams and parish brunch follow the Healing Mass. All are welcome!

The nine-day preparation for investiture in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel begins this coming Saturday, July 8. Copies of the book, *Journey to Mount Carmel*, are available for purchase in the narthex this weekend. The Investiture Mass will be Sunday, July 16, at our 11:00 AM Mass.

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.

Here are some updates on the staff:

We are happy to welcome Crystal Oxley as our new Pastoral Associate. Crystal comes to us from a highly successful career in Human Resources. She has vast experiences in large events planning, recruiting, and the management of resources and personnel. Crystal attended a Bible College and brings a deep understanding of discipleship and ministry with her to her position. Crystal and her family are long-time parishioners of Our Lady of Grace. *Welcome, Crystal!*

We're happy to welcome Aaron Kirby as our new Director of Communications and Public Relations. Aaron comes to us from a very successful career in marketing and sales. He's a graduate of USC- Columbia with a BA in political science. He has served in the Army National Guard and graduated from the SC Criminal Justice Academy. He served as an SC State Trooper before entering the field of marketing and sales. With this background, Aaron brings with him a heightened sense of public service and many skills and talents in the areas of marketing and sales. *Welcome, Aaron!*

In full disclosure, Aaron is related to me. He went through the application process like every other applicant. The application process for new staff at our parish is led by the Lay Administrator and facilitated by the parish Finance Council. I am not involved. In addition, in our parish's pastoral structure, I am not involved in the supervision of our directors. They answer directly to the Lay Administrator. With these safeguards in place, it is permissible to hire staff that might be related to the pastor or other current staff members.

John Paul Rusciollelli is completing his Associate Degree in Business this month and has decided to move on and pursue some other interests. We are thankful for the service John Paul gave to our parish and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. *Thank you, John Paul!*

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

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, the spiritual masters, artificial intelligence, and many other

themes. The podcast is free and can be found in any of the following places: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#), and [Good Catholic](#).

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@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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandioocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

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.