

*From Father Kirby...*

**August 13, 2023**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This week, return to Ordinary Time and resume our walk through the Gospel. The Church reproclaims the Good News of the Lord Jesus and calls us to re-commit ourselves to his Lordship.

This Sunday, we continue our homily series on the Blessed Sacrament. Last week, we were on the parts of the Mass. This week, we go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and see what wisdom Mother Church has for us.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our School Supply Drive! As I mentioned last weekend, all the supplies will go to Clinton Elementary School. This is a school right in our own backyard that is in dire need of support.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate blood. Your kindness will save lives!

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

This weekend, our Secular Franciscan group will be away for their annual regional gathering. The group sponsors our monthly First Saturday brunch and does other spiritual works for the parish. We wish them a blessed time and pray that God will fill them with many graces.

The Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption, August 15, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Masses here will be on Monday, August 14, at 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7:00 PM, and Tuesday, August 15, at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Confessions will follow after each Mass.

Due to the feast day, we will not have our monthly Stations of the Cross on the second Monday of this month.

Next weekend, August 19-20, the parish will host a [display on the Eucharistic Miracles](#). After all the Masses that weekend, parishioners are invited to visit the Parish Hall and peruse the display. The miracles can be a great help to deepening our belief in the Lord's True Presence in the Eucharist.

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:

Crystal Oxley is no longer on our professional staff. We wish Crystal the best in her future endeavors.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, August 26, at 8:30 AM. As the Prayer Outreach becomes a permanent part of our parish way of life, I've asked Deacon Heath to serve as its clergy leader, along with Tom and Sylvia Crainer, who are the leaders of the ministry. In addition, Aaron Kirby from our staff will be there, serving as our liaison with the police department. Depending on other pastoral duties, I will now be present on a fluid basis. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina. The parish currently has a free bus that's available to all parishioners. Please email or stop by the Front Office to reserve your seat. *Please note that November will be the last month that we can provide a bus.*

After Monday, August 28, we will no longer have the Parish Office open on Monday evenings. We attempted these evening hours, but very few people come and so we will divert efforts to other times that will be more helpful.

In observance of Labor Day, September 4, the parish campus will be closed. There is no public Mass or Confessions on that day. All other events are suspended.

On Monday, September 11, at 7:00 PM, our annual RCIA program will begin. This is the process by which a person is prepared for baptism or for those baptized Christians who wish to enter the fullness of the Christian faith by reception into the Catholic Church. Deacon Doc and his team are available and ready to talk with anyone who might be interested in becoming Catholic. Please email the Deacon directly at: [bdonofrio@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:bdonofrio@charlestdiocese.org).

On Wednesday, September 6, our Wednesday evening formation nights start back up. You can register your young people (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – High School) [right here](#). No registrations are required for the adult Bible Study.

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! [Click here](#) for more information.

Our new Sacred Heart Homeschool Co-op begins this September 12 for elementary Grades K – 5. The Co-op will meet at Our Lady of Grace on Tuesdays from 10:15 AM – 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall. If you are interested, please contact Mary Ellen Wolfe at [sacredheartindianland@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartindianland@gmail.com)

On Saturday, September 16, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, we'll have our next Formation Day. Our theme for the day will be: "Meeting Our Spiritual Masters: Learning from the Men and Women Who Knew God." All are welcome!

I'd like to give the parish an update on developments relating to Catholic Land and our current campus. I'd like for everyone to have the opportunity to ask questions and give comments. As such, the parish will host two Town Hall sessions on Wednesday, September 27. One Town Hall session will be at 1:00 PM and the other will be at 6:30 PM. The same content will be presented at each session. There are two sessions so that more people can attend.

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's the information.](#)

This past week, I launched a new LIVE radio show on Radio Maria USA. The show is entitled, *Of First Importance*, and it's a walk-through Sacred Tradition. Please tune in on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11:00 AM. You can listen via the Radio Maria USA app, or through their website: [radiomaria.us](http://radiomaria.us).

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

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

Radio Show: *Of First Importance*, [RadioMariaUS](#)

Daily Reflections are available through [MorningOffering.com](#).