

*From Father Kirby...*

**August 20, 2023**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue our journey through Ordinary Time. As the Church announces the Gospel, we are invited to re-commit ourselves to the Lord Jesus and his most excellent way of love.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Holy Day of Obligation this past week. As a reminder, you must go to sacramental Confession if you willfully did not attend the Holy Day.

This weekend, August 19-20, I'm happy to give a special blessing to all our students as they have begun (or are about to begin) their studies for this academic year.

This weekend, the parish is pleased to host the [display on the Eucharistic Miracles](#). After all the Masses, 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.

Also, this weekend we're distributing copies of Bishop Robert Barron's new book, [This is My Body: A call to Eucharistic Revival](#). It's my hope that the book will help us deepen in our Eucharistic faith and devotion. I'm grateful to the donor who made this gift possible.

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

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming Saturday, August 26, at 8:30 AM. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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, and Tom and Sylvia Crainer to serve as 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 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.*

Next Sunday, August 27, around 12:15 PM, we'll have one of our Puppy Sundays. The local non-profit, [Project 2 Heal](#), will bring their new batch of puppies. The puppies are preparing for their training as service support animals to veterans and those in need. Please stop by the pavilion around 12:15 PM to see the puppies and share in some refreshments.

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:

After Thursday, August 24, we will no longer have open Office Hours on Thursday mornings.

In addition, after Monday, August 28, we will no longer have the Parish Office open on Monday evenings. We attempted the above hours, but very few people come and so we will divert efforts to other times that will be more helpful. As a reminder, our Parish Office is open before and after all the weekend Masses and our parish staff can be readily reached via email. [Here is the staff directory](#).

Our next first weekend is Friday – Saturday, September 1-2. Please plan to participate in our parish Nocturnal Adoration.

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 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. As a reminder, at least one parent must attend the adult Bible Study for a child or young person to be registered in the program. In addition, as we've previously announced, there is no livestreaming of the Bible Study. The livestreaming concluded last May.

On Thursday, September 7, from 10:30 AM – 11:40 AM, our Women’s Faith Formation program resumes. The group will begin the study, [Queen of Heaven: Mary’s Battle for Souls](#). All materials are free. All women of the parish are invited! Please direct any questions to Carole King: [carole.king@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:carole.king@charlestdioocese.org).

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.

On Sunday, September 10, at 12:30 PM, the parish will have its annual Fall Festival. Food, games, and fun! All are welcome!

Our 5:30 PM daily Mass on Monday, September 11, will be a Memorial Mass for all those who died in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. All parishioners are encouraged to come and pray for God’s continued blessings and protection of the United States.

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@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:bdonofrio@charlestdioocese.org).

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](#).

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

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Weekly spirituality column: <https://cruxnow.com/author/fr-jeff-kirby>

Daily Reflections are available through [MorningOffering.com](http://MorningOffering.com).