

From Father Kirby...

August 27, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As summer break comes to an end and school picks back up, it's time to make new commitments. These commitments should include our faith and discipleship. Are we looking for ways to draw closer to the Lord? Are we making commitments to deepen in our relationship with the Lord Jesus?

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our monthly First Friday-First Saturday Nocturnal Adoration (September 1-2). Please be generous with your time and join us for a Holy Hour!

This 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.

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

After this coming week, August 28- 30, we will no longer have the Parish Office open during the *weekday* afternoons.

We have attempted to have open hours since the church building opened, but very few people come in. After the pandemic, email communication took over and people began to interact with the staff via email. And so, rather than pay for staff that have no pressing duties, we're going to suspend the office hours during the weekday afternoons.

The church campus and building will still be open for prayer, events will still take place, and the staff will be readily available to you via email. The adjustment will allow for more programs, interaction with leadership, and availability of staff to parishioners.

Our Parish Office will be open on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (during the program year) and will always be open before and after all the *weekend* Masses. As a reminder, our parish staff can be readily reached via email. [Here is the staff directory](#).

This Friday, September 1, we have our monthly Sacred Heart Mass at 7:00 PM. Confessions will begin after the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This Saturday, September 2, we have Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, the rosary at 10:30 AM, and our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM. Our prayer teams and parish brunch follow the 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 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:

In observance of Labor Day, Monday, 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 (2nd Grade – High School) [right here](#). Registration forms are also available in the narthex this weekend. 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@charlestdiocese.org.

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.

Deacon Doc will be starting up our parish Book Club on Wednesday, September 13, from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM. The club is starting with Bishop Barron's book, *This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival*. All are welcome!

Starting Tuesday, September 12, the Philomena Fellowship will start back up on Tuesdays from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM. The fellowship will meet in Rooms 1 and 2 of the Parish Hall. The Fellowship is for stay-at-home parents and their little ones (up to first grade) to meet for playtime and lessons on our Faith. For more information, please contact the group leaders at philomena@gracewepray.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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Podcast: *Truth be Bold*: On [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#), and [Good Catholic](#)

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

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

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