

From Father Kirby...

September 3, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue our walk with the Lord Jesus during this Ordinary Time. Every day we are invited to declare Jesus as the Lord of our lives. Does our life reflect this declaration? Are we actively seeking to live as disciples of the Lord Jesus?

Happy Labor Day! May God bless the American worker and may he keep our nation strong and virtuous! 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.

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

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. There is no charge for children's faith formation. The parish is happy to cover the expense for our children to learn about God. 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@charlestandioocese.org.

On Sunday, September 10, at 12:30 PM, the parish will have its annual Fall Festival. We'll have some barbeque chicken, along with apple cider, lemonade, and other beverages. We'll have two face painters, two ice cream trucks, cotton candy, kettle corn, a train ride for children, and a free pumpkin for every family! 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:

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@charlestdiocese.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! For more information, please email Deacon Doc at: bdonofrio@charlestdiocese.org.

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.

Please note that EWTN host and noted author, Raymond Arroyo, will be visiting our parish on Sunday afternoon, October 29. More details will follow as the event gets closer.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

Our Parish Office is not open during *weekday* afternoons. The church campus and building are still open for prayer, events actively take place, and the staff are readily available via email.

Our Parish Office is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (during the program year), as well as before and after all the *weekend* Masses.

As a reminder, our parish staff can be readily reached via email. [Here is the staff directory](#).

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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: @fatherkirby

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 available through MorningOffering.com.