

From Father Kirby...

September 10, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As Ordinary Time continues, we are invited to focus on our discipleship and draw closer to the Lord Jesus. Are you using this Ordinary Time to become a better Christian in all you say and do?

This weekend, we celebrate Patriot Day and recall the tragic terrorist attacks on our nation over twenty years ago. May God give repose to all those who died in the attacks and may he give strength to those who are still suffering from its effects. May God bless and protect the United States of America!

This Sunday, September 10, at 12:30 PM, the parish will have its annual Fall Festival. The event is free. *All are welcome!*

Our 5:30 PM daily Mass this 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.

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

Our Semi-Annual Parish Financial Report is available on our website [here](#). Please direct any questions to our Parish Bookkeeper: ssantimaw@charlestdiocese.org.

Aaron Kirby has left our professional staff. He has decided to pursue some other opportunities closer to extended family. We thank him for his service and wish him the best in his new endeavors.

This 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.

Starting this 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.

Deacon Doc will be starting up our parish Book Club this 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@charlestandiocese.org.

Starting this Wednesday evening, September 13, we'll have Confessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM. These Confessions are only offered during the program year when we have faith formation on Wednesday evenings.

This coming 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!

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 reconstituted Pastoral Council will meet on September 19. The council was suspended during the pandemic. I'm grateful to Meg Cariseo for agreeing to serve as the council's president. I look forward to meeting with the new council soon. The Pastoral Council is the chief consultative body to a pastor. It will assist me in making decisions about our vision and goals as a parish.

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, September 23, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to come and join in our peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC. The parish provides a free bus to the outreach. Please stop by the Front Office or drop us an email to reserve your seat.

Our next Fellowship Sunday is September 24 around 12:15 PM. We'll have donuts in the Parish Hall and a coffee/tea truck near the pavilion. 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.

On Saturday, September 30, at our 5:30 PM Mass, several members of our parish will make their Profession of Vows as Secular Franciscans. We wish them all God's blessings and look forward to celebrating this milestone with them!

In honor of the Guardian Angels, during all our Masses on the weekend of September 30 - October 1, we will give a special blessing to all babies and toddlers (up to two years old).

On Sunday, October 1, at 2:00 PM, we'll have our annual Blessing of Pets in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. The blessing will be near the pavilion. Snacks and refreshments will be served after the blessing. Bring your pets, however large or small!

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:

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)!

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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](#).