

*From Father Kirby...*

**September 17, 2023**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As Ordinary Time moves forward, we are called to move forward in our discipleship. This liturgical season is all about discipleship. Mother Church re-proclaims the Gospel and summons us to renew our dedication to the Lord Jesus and go deeper in our discipleship with him.

Throughout the Lord's public ministry, he warned us about the reality and the torments of hell. As a help to understanding the Lord's teachings in this area, the parish is giving out the book, [\*The Dogma of Hell\*](#). Free copies of the book are available in the narthex this weekend. I'm grateful to the donor who made this possible.

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

Every Monday evening, we have Mass at 5:30 PM, followed by Adoration and Confessions until 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

Our reconstituted Pastoral Council will meet this Tuesday, 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 this week. 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.

Every Thursday, our Noon Mass is a Requiem Mass for our beloved dead. All parishioners are invited to come, as they're able, and participate in the holy sacrifice and offer supplications for the repose of the souls of their loved ones.

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming 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 monthly Fellowship is next Sunday, 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!

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.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

I'd like to start highlighting our senior staff and letting you know their major areas of responsibility. Monty Bennett is our Director of Sacred Liturgy/Principal Organist. He is the person you reach out to for anything relating to the sacraments, the sacred liturgy, music, liturgical ministries, and other related matters. If you need a child baptized, or a child is ready for their First Holy Communion, or you need a form signed to be a godparent, etc., Monty is your point of contact on our staff. He can be reached at: [mbennett@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:mbennett@charlestandioocese.org).

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

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:

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.

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

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

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