

From Father Kirby...

October 15, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Although we're still in Ordinary Time, I'm using this weekend to give the second part of our two-part review of how we can observe Advent.

Here are some links to help with Advent customs and traditions:

Information on the "O, Antiphons" can be found [here](#). The Jesse Tree can be found [here](#). The Advent wreath can be found [here](#). The Las Posadas and the Aguinaldos can be found [here](#).

Here are some Advent Songs that were put together by our Director of Sacred Liturgy: [People Look East](#); [On Jordan's Bank](#); [Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates](#); [O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#).

Before Advent, we'll post all of these resources (and some others) on our parish website.

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

From October 16 -26, I'll be away on pilgrimage. I'll be visiting the great Marian shrines of Fatima and Lourdes. Please know of my prayers for each of you at the holy places!

From Monday – Thursday, October 16-19, Father Robert Morey will be on campus, celebrating our daily Masses and hearing Confessions. Father Morey is one of the retired priests of our diocese. Please note that the *only change* to our Mass/Confession schedule will be the suspension of Confessions on Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM. Everything else remains the same.

On Wednesday, October 18, Deacon Doc will guest teach the adult Bible Study at 6:30 PM. The good Deacon will give a summary review of salvation history.

For the weekend of October 21-22, Father Colin Blatchford will be on campus. He will hear Confessions on Saturday afternoon and celebrate our weekend Masses. Father Blatchford is the Associate Director of [Courage International](#), which is the Church's ministry to people with same-sex attractions or gender dysphoria.

From Monday – Thursday, October 23-26, the priests of the diocese will be on their annual retreat. As such, there are no Confessions or Masses at the parish on these days. The Rosary, Adoration, and our devotionals will all still take place. Please note that some of the times have changed. Please consult [the parish calendar](#) for details. I've received permission to use my pilgrimage as my retreat this year.

On Wednesday, October 25, Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Liturgy/Principal Organist, will guest teach the adult Bible Study. Monty will give a review of the Catholic funeral and other rites, as well as discuss the importance of pre-planning these sacred liturgies.

The visit from EWTN host and noted author Raymond Arroyo on October 29 has been postponed. Raymond received an unexpected assignment from FOX News and will not be in our area later this month as expected. More information will be announced as soon as we've been able to reschedule.

Please note our [calendar for the program year](#) 2023/2024 is posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all our events and programs for the year.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, October 28, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are encouraged to come and join in our peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The address of the facility is 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC. The parish provides a free bus. Please stop by the Front Office before or after our weekend Masses or drop us an email to reserve your seat.

The Solemnity of All Saints on Wednesday, November 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation. All the baptized are called to the altar of God for worship. Our Mass schedule here is: Tuesday, October 31: 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM. Wednesday, November 1: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. Confessions are available after each Mass.

As we near the observance of All Souls Day, November 2, I'd like to clarify some of our Catholic customs:

- The All Souls envelopes are for you to formally ask your local pastor to prayerfully remember your beloved dead through the next year. It is very important that you write the names of your loved ones on the envelopes. The names can be anyone who has died at any time. Please note: the All Souls

collection goes directly to the priest. This is the only time in which collected funds go directly to the priest. *However, checks should still be made out to the parish. Please do not make any checks payable to me.* The parish will issue me a check.

- The Book of the Dead will be placed by the baptismal font on November 1. Any and all of your beloved dead can be written in the book. It does not matter when your loved ones passed away. Anyone can be written in the book.
- The Reading of Names at our 7:00 PM Mass on All Souls is only for those who have died *within the past liturgical year* (November 2, 2022 – November 1, 2023). Names can be emailed to Monty: mbennett@charlestandiocese.org.

Our next First Friday and First Saturday is November 3-4. Please plan to sign up for an hour of prayer.

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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Twitter: [@fatherkirby](https://twitter.com/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.