

*From Father Kirby...*

**October 22, 2023**

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Greetings from the holy places of Fatima and Lourdes! You are all being remembered at the altar during my Masses and prayers. May God bless the good people of Our Lady of Grace Parish!

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

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-us for the Live Nativity and Children's Christmas Choir. *All children are welcome to sign up!*

This 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.

I look forward to returning to the parish later this week and to being back with you at our parish altar next weekend for Masses!

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.

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.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

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@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:mbennett@charlestdiocese.org).

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

On Monday evening, November 13, at 7:00 PM, we'll have our monthly Stations of the Cross for loved ones who have left the practice of the Faith.

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](#).

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.

As we approach December, 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.

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).