

From Father Kirby...

October 8, 2023

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Although we're still in Ordinary Time, I'm using this weekend and next weekend, October 14-15, to give a review of how we can observe Advent. Since our secular world starts its "Christmas" in October, I figured we should review Advent and be ready to observe this important season. The pressures and influences of the secular Christmas are real and we want to stay focused on Advent when it comes, so that we can prepare for the real Christmas, which is the celebration of our Lord's sacred Nativity.

This Sunday, October 8, we're having our annual Rosary Procession before the 11:00 AM Mass. *All parishioners are invited to come and honor Our Lady during the month of the Rosary!* Please come around 10:45 AM, park your cars, and meet down by the flags at the entrance of our campus.

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

This Monday, October 9, at 7:00 PM, we'll have our monthly Stations of the Cross for all those who have left the Faith. All are welcome to come and walk the Stations for this special intention!

This coming Wednesday, at 1:00 PM, Deacon Doc continues our parish Book Club. The group is starting a new book, [A Map of Life](#). All are welcome!

Next weekend, October 14-15, the parish will host a Food Drive. The three items we're collecting are: canned meat, canned pasta meals (ie, Chef Boyardee), and any canned vegetables. Please bring these items to the pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be there to assist you.

Next Sunday, October 15, the parish will once again host two blood buses. [Please sign up to give blood here.](#)

Please note our new [calendar for the program year 2023/2024](#) 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:

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 Confession schedule will be the suspension of Confessions on Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM. Everything else remains the same.

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 who have same-sex attractions and 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 and so please consult [the parish calendar](#) for details. I've received permission to use my pilgrimage as my retreat this year.

As we near the observance of All Souls (November 2), we are asking for the names of your loved ones who have died *within the past liturgical year* (November 2, 2022 – November 1, 2023). The names will be included in the Reading of Names at our All Souls 7:00 PM Mass. Please send names to Monty Bennett: mbennett@charlestdiocese.org.

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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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.