

November 5, 2023

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! What a powerful, grace-filled week we've had! The solemnity of All Saints, the holy day of All Souls, First Friday, Nocturnal Adoration, Confessions, the Healing Mass, and so many other opportunities to deepen in our discipleship! Wow! *Thanks be to God!* And thanks also to so many of you who actively participated in these liturgical and devotional observances!

As we continue through November, I want to remind everyone that this is our devotional month of the dead. Please be sure to pray, fast, and offer sacrifices for your beloved dead.

This weekend, we're giving out free study Bibles in the narthex. If you're in need of a good Bible, please take one.

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

This Sunday, November 5, is the start date for the thirty-three-day preparation for Consecration to Jesus through Mary. There are various prep books. The one we distributed a few years ago was [33 Days to Morning Glory](#) by Father Michael Gaitley. The Consecration can be made on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8).

As some of you might recall, this past summer I gave a talk entitled, "[Saved and Sanctified by Hope](#)," at the Defending the Faith conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The talk is now available for free on the conference's YouTube channel. As a society, we are in great need of hope today. I recommend everyone watch the talk. It can be [viewed here](#).

We are moving forward with our work on the Front Hill. As our landscape architect navigates the scene with contractors and vendors, we are being told that we need another \$325,000 to complete the original design. We can certainly adjust the design, but before we make any changes, I want to make an appeal to any parishioners who might have the means to help us with covering this additional expense. As it might be desired, we can include memorials in the project. If any parishioners are able and interested in assisting with these expenses, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org.

Parishioners are asked to please stop dropping off sacramentals, books, rosaries, and other such items in the church and around the building. If items are sent to you by charitable groups, they are not blessed. Such items can be buried or burned. Please do not drop them off at the parish. We don't want our church to look like a flea market.

The Book of the Dead is now at the baptismal font. It will remain there for the entire month of November. I encourage you to write the names of your beloved dead in the book and so assure them of the prayers of our parish throughout this month.

Every Wednesday, we have Mass at Noon and the Saint Dymphna Novena afterwards. The novena is for people who struggle with emotional or mental challenges. Please come and join us for the Mass and novena this Wednesday!

As a reminder, 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.

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:

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.

Our parish and Saint Catherine's Parish in Lancaster have been moved to the Columbia Deanery. As such, I'll have to attend deanery meetings in Columbia about 3- 4 times a year. On Tuesday, November 14, I have my first deanery meeting away from the parish. I wasn't able to find coverage for Confessions and Mass that day and so we won't have Confessions or daily Mass on November 14.

After our session on Wednesday, November 15, our faith formation evenings will be on pause for the holiday season. We'll resume on January 3.

On Saturday, November 18, we have our next Formation Day from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon. For this Formation Day, we're going to go a walk-through of the saints depicted in our parish church. We'll go over their lives, devotions, and how they can help us in our discipleship today. All are welcome!

This year, Thanksgiving is on November 23. We'll have our Thanksgiving Mass at 11:00 AM. Confessions precede the Mass and will be heard from 10:00 – 10:40 AM.

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](#).

I was hoping to host a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome this coming June. With the situation in the Middle East, such a pilgrimage is not possible. In its place, however, I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to the [Great Shrines of France](#). The tour will include Lourdes, Lisieux (Saint Therese the Little Flower), the holy places of Paris, Nevers (Saint Bernadette), Paray-le-Monial (Sacred Heart Apparitions), Lyon, LaSalette, Ars (Saint John Vianney), and the Beaches of Normandy with a Mass at the US Foreign Cemetery. This is not a parish pilgrimage, but I wanted to make the parish family aware of the opportunity. The pilgrimage is a personal pilgrimage of mine and many people from different parts of the United States will be participating in it. All are welcome!

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.

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 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.