

November 26, 2023

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today is the Solemnity of Christ the King. As the liturgical year comes to an end, Mother Church reenacts our particular judgment and summons us to present our discipleship to the Lord Jesus. Today's high feast day can be a source of consolation and conviction. Where do we truly stand in our relationship with the Lord? If we were judged today, how would we do?

As a reminder, November is our devotional month of the dead. Please be sure to pray, fast, and offer sacrifices for your beloved dead.

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday-Saturday, December 1-2. Please be generous with your time and join your parish family for this all-night prayer vigil before the Lord.

This Sunday, November 26, after our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have our Gingerbread Family Fellowship in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome! The event is free and includes gingerbread snacks for everyone!

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

This weekend, November 25-26, and next weekend, December 2-3, we'll be singing the [Lourdes Ave, Maria](#). The tune is very similar to the one we're familiar with, but there are some differences. We'll be singing the Lourdes Ave since we'll be using that hymn for our Immaculate Conception Procession on December 7. It's my great hope that everyone will come and participate in the evening Mass and Procession.

This Friday, December 1, we have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM. Confessions will follow the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This Saturday, December 2, Confessions are from 9:00 – 10:30 AM, the rosary is at 10:30 AM, our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick is at 11:00 AM, and then our parish Prayer Teams and brunch will follow the Mass. The brunch is free. All are welcome!

Next Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Good Catholic will be hosting a digital retreat for Advent. Entitled, [Sacred Stillness: A Catholic Advent Retreat](#),

the retreat dives into many of the spiritual lessons of waiting for the coming of the Lord. I'll be giving one of the presentations. Please consider signing up!

Next Sunday, December 3, our 11:00 AM Mass will include a children's homily and a blessing of the Baby Jesus. All children are asked to bring the Baby Jesus from their home creches for the blessing. The parish will also give out little Baby Jesus statues to every child.

Saint Nicholas will be visiting our parish next Sunday, December 3! Children are asked to come to the 11:00 AM Mass and to leave their shoes along the hallway before Mass. Good Saint Nick will visit during the Mass and fill shoes with goodies! Parents are asked to put a note about allergies in the shoes of their children. After the Mass, the children are encouraged to grab their candy and come to the Parish Hall with their parents for fellowship.

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:

This past week, the parish was happy to host a distribution of hamburgers to all the inmates of Kershaw Correctional Institution. The money was drawn from our charitable fund. Members of our parish prison teams distribute the burgers. The hamburgers were a small way of sharing Thanksgiving with the inmates and reminding them of God's love and mercy.

I encourage everyone to continue in their thirty-three-day preparation for Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The Consecration can be made *before* all the Masses on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8). Please come to Mass about five minutes early if you plan on making (or renewing) the Consecration.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on Friday, December 8. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast of the United States, as well as the patronal feast of our parish. Our Mass times are: Thursday, December 7, at 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7:00 PM. Friday, December 8, at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Confessions are available after all the Masses except the 7:00 PM Mass. The 7:00 PM Mass on December 7 is our parish's Anniversary Mass. The Mass will be followed by a beautiful candlelight procession and crowning of Our Lady. *All parishioners are highly encouraged to come to the evening Mass!*

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

We are currently working on our website. Our first task is to find a new company to design and carry the website since we want professional service and quality design. As soon as this task is complete, we'll then begin to move things over and develop our current content. Please be patient, knowing that work is being done and we look forward to our website being more of a resource to everyone as soon as possible!

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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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 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](#); [Lo How a Rose](#); [The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns](#); [People Look East](#); [O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#); [Hark a Herald Voice is Calling](#); [Wake Awake for Night is Flying](#); [Emmanuel](#)