

January 7, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Epiphany, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate the epiphany – the “manifestation” – of the Lord Jesus to all the nations. The mysterious Magi come from the East and adore the Christ Child in the arms of his Mother. In their arrival, the Christ of Israel is manifested to all the nations! *Come, let us adore him!*

In the narthex this weekend, we have free kits for the annual Epiphany house blessing. The kits have already been blessed and are available one per family. Please take a kit and bless your home for the new year!

This Sunday, January 7 at 12:15 PM, in honor of the Epiphany, the parish is hosting an Epiphany Stocking Fellowship. At the fellowship, each person will receive a small stocking and be invited to walk through various candy stations and fill their stocking with holy day goodies! *All are welcome!*

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

The work continues on our Holy Angels Columbarium and our Front Hill! It's great to see the progress! The anticipated conclusion of the work is still sometime in March.

This Monday evening, January 8, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the practice of the Faith. All are invited to come and walk the Stations for the swift return of our fallen away loved ones.

This Wednesday, January 10, Father Robert Morey, a retired priest of our diocese, will be hearing our daily Confessions and celebrating our Noon Mass. *Welcome back, Father Morey!*

While Father Morey is here, I'll be away visiting our friends at the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and giving an interview for the show, [*The Journey Home*](#). The show is mainly about the conversion stories of people who have entered the fullness of the Christian faith and have become Catholic Christians. While I'm not a convert, the show is interested in my own journey of faith, which is reflected in the article, [*Called, Converted, and Chosen in Christ*](#).

Next weekend January 13-14, the parish is hosting a Diaper Drive. All parishioners are asked to bring children's diapers to Mass with them. Parishioners can drop off the diapers before Mass at the pavilion. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be on site to assist you.

Next Sunday, January 14, we'll host two blood buses on our campus. There is a dire need for blood in our area and so I encourage all parishioners to consider giving blood. [Here's the link to sign up.](#)

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:

In honor of Dr Martin Luther King Day, the church and parish campus will be closed on Monday, January 15. There is no public Mass and all events are suspended at the parish. May God bless our nation with greater racial harmony and love between neighbors.

The annual Priest Convocation will be held on Monday – Thursday, January 15-18. All priests of the diocese will be with the Bishop. As such, there are no Confessions or public Masses at the parish on these days. The Rosary, our Adoration times, and our daily devotions will all be offered. *Come and join your parish for public prayer!*

On Friday evening, January 26, the parish is honored to host the noted writer, columnist, and popular speaker, [Father Roger Landry](#). The evening will begin with some sacred music at 6:30 PM. Father Landry's talk is at 7:00 PM and is entitled, *Living as Disciples of the Lord*. Free copies of Father Landry's book will be available to all participants. Father Landry's talk will be followed by fellowship and a book signing. All are welcome!

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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: @fatherkirby

Radio Show: *Of First Importance*, [RadioMariaUS](#)

Weekly spirituality column: <https://cruxnow.com/author/fr-jeff-kirby>

Daily Reflections available through MorningOffering.com.