

**January 21, 2024**

*From Father Kirby...*

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This Sunday, we continue to make our way through Ordinary Time. For this stretch of Ordinary Time, we're concluding our homily series on the Eucharist. This Sunday, we'll dive back into the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and seek the wisdom of the Church in understanding the great mystery of the Lord's True Presence in the Eucharist.

Thank you to everyone who remembered my mother in your prayers. The knee surgery went extremely well (finally, after five surgeries) and her recovery is going very smoothly! Thanks be to God!

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

It's a great joy to see the columbarium and Front Hill all coming together. The construction teams are moving at a great speed and the projected conclusion of the two projects is still March. Please remember the workers in your prayers!

All high school students are invited to attend the [Diocesan Youth Conference \(DYC\)](#) on Saturday, March 9. The parish is hosting a group for the event and will cover the expenses of the conference for any teenage parishioner who would like to go. Parents, please reach out to Ryan Kubic for more information: [rkubic@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:rkubic@charlestandiocese.org).

Our weekly Philomena Fellowship has started back up. If any stay-home parents with children under first grade are looking for fellowship, the Philomena Fellowship is for you! The group meets on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM. Please reach out to the group's leadership at: [Philomena@gracewepray.org](mailto:Philomena@gracewepray.org). Please be sure to contact the group's leadership before you try to attend a meeting, since the group sometimes meets off-site at local parks.

This 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!*

Our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, January 27, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to come and join us in a peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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:

I'd like to welcome Sandy Petrizzo to the staff as our new Business Manager. Sandy is a bookkeeper with vast experience in non-profit bookkeeping and budgeting. She's served in our parish Business Office in different capacities over the past several years. It's an answer to prayer to finally find a strong, highly skilled, and faith-filled Business Manager. *Welcome, Sandy!*

Please direct all questions or inquiries about parish finances, your tithe, tax letters, collection envelopes, etc., to Sandy: [spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org).

Also in our Business Office, I'd like to welcome Valerie Cannavo as our new Bookkeeper. Valerie has been in this position for the past couple of months while training with our former bookkeeper. *Welcome, Valerie!*

Sally Santimaw will continue to work in the Business Office with fewer hours and on specific projects and tasks.

This past week, our parish tax letters were sent out. Thank you to everyone who supported the parish this past year! Your generosity and faithfulness are deeply appreciated! If anyone has questions about their tax letters, please email Sandy Petrizzo: [spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org).

On Wednesday, January 31, the parish Book Club will begin a new book, *From Ash to Fire* by Carolyn Humphreys. The book is a contemporary look at Teresa of Avila's spiritual masterpiece, *Interior Castle*. The Book Club meets from 1:00 – 2:00 PM. All are welcome!

The Mass of the Lord's Presentation, commonly referred to as Candlemas, will be celebrated as our First Friday Mass on Friday, February 2, at 7:00 PM. The Mass will begin with the blessing of our parish candles in the narthex of the church.

The Blessing of Throats in honor of Saint Blaise will be offered at the end of our First Saturday Mass on Saturday, February 3, at 11:00 AM. With the cold and flu season upon us, everyone is invited to come and receive the saint's blessing for continued health.

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](#).

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

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

Daily Reflections available through [MorningOffering.com](#).