

January 28, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue to make our way through Ordinary Time. Mother Church calls us to hear the Gospel again and to recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Father Landry's talk on discipleship this past Friday evening. It was a joy to see a comfortably full church! Thank you, Team Grace!

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this Friday and Saturday, February 2-3. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family!

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

We welcome Father Rhett Williams to the parish this Sunday afternoon! Father Williams is the Bishop's Vicar of Vocations. He will be visiting our parish to talk with the young men of our Kolbe Group. *Welcome, Father Williams!*

The rain slowed down the work on our new columbarium and on the front hill, but the contractors are eager to start back up once the rain passes.

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@charlestdiocese.org.

This Wednesday, January 31, at 1:00 PM, 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*. All are welcome!

As a reminder, our adult Bible Study is every Wednesday from 6:30 – 7:45 PM. Currently, we're walking through the Book of Exodus. All are welcome!

The Mass of the Lord's Presentation, commonly referred to as Candlemas, will be celebrated as our First Friday Mass this Friday, February 2, at 7:00 PM. The Mass

will begin with the blessing of our parish candles in the narthex of the church. Parishioners are invited to bring any candles that will be used for sacred purposes for the blessing.

The Blessing of Throats in honor of Saint Blaise will be offered at the end of our First Saturday Healing Mass this 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.

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 Friday evening, February 9, at 7:00 PM, the parish is happy to host the young theologian, Clement Harrold. Clement will talk about Lent and Mary Magdalene. The talk will be a great opportunity to prepare for a fruitful Lent! A fellowship will follow the talk. All are welcome!

Our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the Faith will be on Monday, February 12, at 7:00 PM.

The sacred season of Lent begins on February 14 this year. Our Masses for Ash Wednesday are 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM. Other than for our homebound parishioners and those in care facilities, *ashes will only be distributed during Masses*. Confessions will be available after each Mass. Adoration will be held from 12 Noon until 4:00 PM.

For Lent this year, we'll have weekly Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM starting February 21.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

As we begin to prepare for our parish's participation in our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, please note the following:

- Our Saturday evening Masses on Saturday, April 6, are suspended. We will not have Masses on Saturday evening, April 6, since the parish will be in Columbia for the Eucharistic Congress.
- Registrations will begin next week for parishioners and families.

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](#).