

February 4, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! For the remainder of Ordinary Time, we are invited to draw closer to the Lord Jesus and recommit ourselves to him. The Church proclaims the Gospel and summons us to surrender to it.

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups again for our Children's Easter Choir. All the children of the parish are invited to join the choir and lead us in sacred song on Easter morning.

This 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 Magdalen. The talk will be a great opportunity to prepare for a fruitful Lent! A fellowship will follow the talk. *All are welcome!*

All registered households of Our Lady of Grace are invited to participate in our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on Saturday, April 6. The parish is sponsoring buses for the event and will provide free polo shirts. [Here's the registration form](#). Please email or drop off the completed form to the attention of Ryan Kubic: rkubic@charlestdiocese.org.

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

This weekend, ministry leaders from our parish attended the Pink and Blue Gala of the [Saint Clare Home](#), which is the maternity home in our diocese for unwed mothers. Our parish is a major supporter of the home and we were happy to send a delegation to the gala to show our continued support!

With the addition of a Marian Grotto to the Front Hill project, we'll have some new drawings of the project in a couple of weeks. We're confirming some details now and should be able to commission the drawings soon. Once completed, the drawings will be displayed in the narthex.

Next Sunday, February 11, at 12:15, we'll have a Mardi Gras Fellowship. Come and join in for some King Cake and fun!

LAST CALL: 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@charlestandioocese.org.

We're moving forward with the revision of our website. After searching different companies, we've selected Whirlwind Creative. We'll now begin our meetings with their team and start brainstorming on how to expand and improve our parish website. I'll post updates as we move along.

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:

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 First Friday Adoration on April 5 will conclude at Midnight.
- We will have no Confessions and no Healing Mass on First Saturday, April 6.
- All other First Saturday observances are suspended on April 6.
- 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 have begun for our parish. Please see the notes above for information.

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](#).