

**February 11, 2024**

***From Father Kirby...***

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This weekend we begin our conclusion of this portion of Ordinary Time. This Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the sacred penitential season of our Faith. Please note our Ash Wednesday Mass schedule below.

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

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](mailto:rkubic@charlestdiocese.org).

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

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 this Wednesday, February 14. 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.

Here are some reminders and suggestions for Lent:

- Observe the Lent fast and abstinence: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

- Participate in our weekly Stations of the Cross. The Stations will be prayed every Wednesday at 5:30 PM starting February 21.
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily.
- Sign up for Good Catholic's free daily devotional email, [The Morning Offering](#).
- Sign up for Good Catholic's Lenten program, [A Holy Lent](#).

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.

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:

The parish campus will be closed on Monday, February 19, in honor of President's Day. There is no public Mass that day. All other activities are suspended. May God continue to bless the United States of America!

I'll be away giving a Mercy Mission on Tues-Wed, February 20-21. While I'm away, Father Morey will offer daily Mass and hear Confessions on those days.

On Thursday, February 22, [Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers](#) will be visiting our parish. The Deacon will give a talk on *Building a Civilization of Love: A Catholic Response to Racism*. A sacred music concert will be offered at 6:30 PM. The Deacon will speak at 7:00 PM. A fellowship and book-signing will be held after the talk. Free copies of the Deacon's recent book will be distributed to those who attend the event. All are welcome!

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

On Sunday, March 17, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, the parish will host a Student Athlete Day of Reflection. Dr John Acquaviva, an author and professor of exercise

science, as well as a devout Catholic Christian, will lead the event. All student athletes are invited! The event is free. Copies of Dr Acquaviva's books will be given to all participants. To sign up, please contact Charlie Petrizzo: [cpetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:cpetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org).

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.

If any parishioner is interested in learning more about the theology and spirituality of the Holy Name of God and of our Lord Jesus, I recommend the miniseries from Good Catholic, [\*The Power of the Holy Name of Jesus\*](#).

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'm very happy to announce that two Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia will be participating in the pilgrimage this summer to the [Great Shrines of France](#). The tour includes 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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Daily Reflections available through [MorningOffering.com](http://MorningOffering.com).