

February 25, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Lent continues to move along, and we're called to move along with it. The Lenten summons is real. We're called to die to ourselves so that we can live more fully for Jesus Christ. How's your Lent going? Are you diving deep in your relationship with the Lord?

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, March 1-2. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family!

It's my great hope that many of you will choose 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 Sunday, February 25, around 12 :15 PM, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday in the Parish Hall. All are invited!

This Wednesday, February 28, at 5:30 PM, our weekly Stations of the Cross for Lent begin. All are welcome!

This Friday, March 1, we have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM. Confessions will begin after the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This Saturday, March 2, we have our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. Confessions precede the Mass from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. The rosary will begin at 10:30 AM. After the Mass, we have our intercessory prayer teams and our monthly parish brunch.

There are many marriages within our parish that have not been blessed by the Church. We need to focus on these marriages and follow through on any processes that need to happen for the Church's blessing to be given. These processes include annulments. I'm happy to announce that we now have three trained case workers in our parish for annulments. Our case workers are men and women. If you need to go

through the annulment process, please reach out to Deacon Doc: bdonofrio@charlestandioocese.org. He will do the in-take and help match you up with the best case worker. It's time to take the sacramental status of your marriage seriously.

When our parish opened the doors of our church building over seven years ago, I agreed to two evening Masses on Saturday evening. We've held that schedule since then. Time, however, has proven that two Masses are not needed. *And so, as announced last week, starting Saturday, April 13, we're going to merge the two Masses into one Mass at 5:00 PM.* This arrangement meets both Mass groups in the middle and provides the option of a Saturday evening Mass, even though this is not preferred by the Church.

Starting on Saturday, April 13, we'll have Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM on Saturdays. This is the preferred way to begin the Lord's Day. Everyone is encouraged to come and join in the Evening Prayer of the Church!

Confessions will still be heard from 3:00 – 3:30 PM on Saturdays.

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 Thursday, March 7, at 7:00 PM, author and social commentator [Noelle Mering](#) will give a talk on her book, *Awake, Not Woke!* All are welcome to come to the talk! A fellowship and book-signing will be held afterwards. Free copies of Noelle's book will be given to those who participate.

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* for high school and college-aged student athletes. Dr John Acquaviva, an author and professor of exercise science, as well as a devout Catholic Christian, will lead the event. The event is free. Copies of Dr Acquaviva's books will be given to all participants. To sign up, please contact Charlie Petrizzo: cpetrizzo@charlestandioocese.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.

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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Twitter: @fatherkirby

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

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

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