

March 10, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today we celebrate Laetare “Rejoice” Sunday! It marks the midpoint of Lent. On this Sunday, we are called to rejoice a little as we await the joy and glory of the Lord’s Resurrection. And so, rejoice!

We’re very happy to unveil the artistic rendition of our Marian Grotto. You can view the drawing [here](#). The drawing is also now displayed in the narthex of our church building.

We are now full for the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on Saturday, April 6. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please contact Ryan Kubic: rkubic@charlestandioocese.org.

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

We pray for all our high school parishioners who attended the Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC). We pray the event helped them to draw closer to the Lord!

Our semi-annual financial report can be [viewed here](#). Please direct any questions to our Business Manager, Sandy Petrizzo: spetrizzo@charlestandioocese.org.

Our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the faith will be this Monday, March 11, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

Our Lenten Stations of the Cross will be this Wednesday at 5:30 PM. All are welcome!

As a reminder, our evening Confession times are every Monday evening from 6:15 – 7:00 PM and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM.

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.

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 Sunday, March 17, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, the parish will host a *Student Athlete Day of Recollection* 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@charlestandiocese.org.

Our 11:00 AM Mass on Palm Sunday, March 24, will begin with a Procession of Palms at Our Lady's statue at the entrance of our campus. Parishioners are asked to arrive at 10:45 AM, park their cars, and join us at the entrance of our campus. The procession will have a donkey, drums, and bagpipers. During the Mass, we'll have a children's homily. After the Mass, we'll have our Spring Fest with food, a petting zoo, and pony rides for children! All are welcome!

Here is our schedule for Holy Week:

- Monday, March 25, the parish is open. We'll have the Miraculous Medal Novena at 5:30 PM, followed by Adoration with Benediction at 7:00 PM. There is no evening Mass or Confessions since Father Kirby will be traveling to Charleston for the Chrism Mass with the Bishop.
- Tuesday, March 26, our parish campus is closed. Father Kirby and senior staff will be attending the Chrism Mass in Charleston.
- Spy Wednesday, March 27, Confessions will be heard from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM and then 12:45 PM until last penitent. Mass is at Noon with the Saint Dymphna Novena and Adoration afterwards.
- Holy Thursday, March 28, the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be at 7:00 PM. The Altar of Repose and Confessions will follow the Mass and continue until 11:50 PM. *There is no Noon Mass on Holy Thursday.*
- Good Friday, March 29, Confessions are from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM and then 4:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Solemn Stations of the Cross are at Noon. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is at 3:00 PM.

- Holy Saturday, March 30, the Great Easter Vigil is at 8:30 PM. *There is no 4:00 PM or 5:30 PM Masses on Holy Saturday.* A “Resurrection Party” will be held in the Parish Hall after the Easter Vigil.
- Easter Sunday, March 31, Masses are at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

As is our custom here at the parish, the campus and church are closed the week after Easter, Monday – Thursday, April 1- 4.

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](#).

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 previously announced, 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.

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: @fatherkirby

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

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

Daily Reflections available through MorningOffering.com.