

March 17, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As Catholic Christians, we now begin Passiontide, the second phase of Lent. It is a time of austerity. We are in an immediate preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Paschal Mystery, namely, of his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. In observance of Passiontide, Mother Church suggests that we veil our statues and holy images, and that the bells – which are symbols of joy – be suspended.

On this feast day, I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy Saint Patrick's Day! May God restore the Faith on the Emerald Isle!

Regrettably, we didn't receive enough sign-ups to sustain the Student-Athlete Day of Recollection this afternoon (March 17). Instead, we've asked Dr. Acquaviva to speak during our Wednesday Faith Formation on April 10.

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.

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

Our new semi-annual financial report was released last week. It can be [viewed here](#). Please direct any questions to our Business Manager, Sandy Petrizzo: spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org.

My apologies to any household that received their March Liturgy of the Hours late. Word on Fire, who supplies the Liturgy of the Hours for us, had some administrative problems, but we're told it has all been worked out. Everyone should receive their April book on time.

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

Next Sunday, March 24, is Palm Sunday! Our 11:00 AM Mass will begin with a Procession of Palms. The procession will begin 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!*

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 US Bishops recently revised several aspects of the RCIA, which is the process by which a person prepares for baptism or full entrance into the Church. These changes included a name change. The process is now called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). You will now hear us refer to the OCIA program.

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@charlestondiocese.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.

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](#).

As a reminder, *starting Saturday, April 13, we're only going to have a 5:00 PM Saturday evening Mass.*

Starting on Saturday, April 13, we'll have Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM on Saturdays. 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, as well as during our regular times throughout the week.

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.