

April 21, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The Lord is Risen! We continue to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection and discern how it applies to our lives and how we can live by its glory. What does it mean to you and your life that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead?

This past Friday, April 19, I was able to visit the [John Paul II Shrine](#) in Washington, DC, and do some recording for programs that are meant to highlight the life and legacy of John Paul II. It's a blessing for us to have a stained-glass window of the saint here at our parish and to be a part of his on-going witness to the Church and the world. It's my hope that the parish can host another pilgrimage to the shrine in the coming months. Our last pilgrimage was a couple of years ago. More information will be coming shortly.

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

As a further effort to enhance our spiritual life as a parish, I'd like to start offering spiritual direction. While on the recent priest retreat, I was reminded of its importance in our discipleship. And so, if any *men of the parish* would like spiritual direction, please email me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandioocese.org. As an immediate clarification, I will only be able to offer spiritual direction on Wednesday afternoons or Thursday mornings at this time. Spiritual direction usually lasts about a half hour and is usually received on a monthly basis.

For any *women of the parish* who would like spiritual direction, I'd like to remind you of Carole King, our staff Coordinator of Spiritual Formation. Carole has a Masters Degree in Theology, is a certified spiritual director, a certified life coach, and has given spiritual direction for over thirty years. Please contact Carole if you're interested in spiritual direction: carole.king@charlestandioocese.org.

Work continues on our parish columbarium and front hill/Marian Grotto projects. Please pray for good weather and for the workers.

Our Wednesday faith formation programs are back in session and will continue on until May 1. As a reminder, Confessions are heard on Wednesday evenings during the program year from 6:00 – 6:30 PM.

On Saturday, April 27, at 8:30 AM, we'll have our next prayer outreach at the local abortion facility. All parishioners are encouraged to come and join us in this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Please join us every Saturday evening at 4:00 PM for Solemn Vespers. All are welcome to come and welcome the Lord's Day in prayer.

As previously announced, we now *only have a 5:00 PM* Anticipated Sunday Mass on Saturday evenings.

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 next Nocturnal Adoration will be Friday – Saturday, May 3- 4. Please plan ahead and prepare to give the Lord an hour of prayer.

On Monday evening, May 6, I'll be attending the Charlotte lecture of the psychologist, Dr. Jordan Peterson. The lecture is a part of his national tour, [We Who Wrestle with God](#). I'm grateful for the invitation to sit in the front section for the lecture. I look forward to hearing Dr. Peterson's assessment of humanity's wrestling match with God and to sharing his insights with the parish family.

Due to the lecture, we will not have our 5:30 PM evening Mass on Monday, May 6. We will have the Rosary at 5:00 PM, the Miraculous Medal Novena at 5:30 PM, and then time for Adoration until Benediction around 7:00 PM.

Our May Crowning this year will be Sunday, May 12, at our 11:00 AM Mass. The procession begins down at the flags at the entrance of our campus. Parishioners are asked to come around 10:45 AM, park their vehicles, and meet us at the flags. All parishioners are encouraged to come and participate in this beautiful celebration of Our Lady.

After our daily Mass on Tuesday, May 14, there will be a cake and small celebration of my 49th birthday. All are welcome. Please note there are no Confessions after Mass on this day.

For your long-term planning: On Tuesday evening, June 4, I'll be hosting our first Saint Paula Dinner for the widows of our parish. The meal will start with simple Vespers at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall. A casual meal will follow. All widows are invited and encouraged to come!

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

All parishioners are reminded and encouraged to please follow the parish on Facebook. We use our account to post parish updates, funeral notices, baptism celebrations, and other announcements. [Here's the link to our page.](#)

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.](#)

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

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

Daily Reflections available through MorningOffering.com.