

April 28, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The mystery and glory of the Resurrection is within our hearts and surrounds us day by day. We need to work to slow down, actively pray, and rejoice in the Lord's glory!

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday evening – Saturday morning, May 3-4. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family!

This Sunday, April 28, around 12:15 PM, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday. Please come and share in some donuts and holy fellowship. All are welcome!

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

This Wednesday, May 1, our Wednesday faith formation programs will conclude and we'll enter into our summer hiatus. Thank you to all the families and parishioners who participated in our programs this year! Our Wednesday evening Confessions will also go on hiatus until the formation programs resume in the Fall.

This Friday, May 3, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart. Confessions follow the Mass until Midnight.

This Saturday, May 4, we have Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, the Rosary at 10:30 AM, and our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM. After the Mass, we'll have our intercessory prayer teams available in the church and our monthly parish brunch in the Parish Hall. All are invited!

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:

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.

On Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12, we'll offer a special blessing to our mothers at all of our weekend Masses.

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.

This year, Pentecost is on May 19. Please remember to wear red for Mass that weekend. This older custom is a reminder to us that the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

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:

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@charlestandiocese.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 Master's 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@charlestdioocese.org.

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.