

June 2, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Corpus Christi, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate the great mystery of God's presence among us! The Lord has not left us orphans. He dwells with us. He lives among us! The Risen Lord is truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. We rejoice and are filled with gratitude over his wonderful presence among us! Thanks be to God!

This Sunday at our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have our annual Corpus Christi Procession. After Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be processed to the pump house area and Benediction will be given. After the Benediction, we'll have an Ice Cream Social in the parking lot. *All are welcome!*

During our 11:00 AM Corpus Christi Mass, we will also recommission our parish's Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMs). We are grateful for their service to the Lord and to our community!

I was happy to sit down for an interview with Dr. Scott Hahn and talk about discipleship. I'd like to share that interview with the parish family. You can find the [link to the interview here](#).

Since the First Friday and First Saturday were split this month, we'll have our First Saturday observances next Saturday, June 8. We have sign-ups this weekend in the narthex for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday-Saturday, June 7-8. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord Jesus and your parish family.

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

I'd like to welcome MJ Wallace to our staff. MJ will hold the part-time position of Pastor's Coordinator. The diverse duties of her position include covering the Front Office on Saturday evenings and assisting me in my daily duties as pastor. *Welcome, MJ!*

The [calendar for the program year](#) 2024/2025 is posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all our events and programs for the year. This is posted for your reference and information.

This 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. No sign-ups are needed. All widows are invited and encouraged to come! Please bring your copy of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Our parish will be blessed by the visit of two Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia of Nashville, TN, next weekend, June 7-9. The Sisters will visit with various groups at the parish, participate in our First Friday and First Saturday observances, and speak after each of our Sunday morning Masses. We'll also have a "Fellowship with the Sisters" on Sunday, June 9, at 12:15 PM. *All are welcome!*

This Friday, June 7, we'll have our monthly Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM. Confessions will follow the Mass and continue until Midnight.

Next Saturday, June 8, we'll have Confessions from 9:00-10:30 AM, the rosary at 10:30 AM, and then our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM. Our intercessory prayer teams and parish brunch will follow the Mass.

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! On Saturday, June 8, the visiting Dominican Sisters will pray Vespers with us! After Vespers, we'll have a fellowship with the Sisters. *All are welcome!*

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

This coming June 9 -20, I'll be away on pilgrimage visiting the holy places of France. I'll carry each of you with me throughout the pilgrimage. Next weekend in the narthex, I'll have sheets out for any parishioner to write their intentions. The intentions will be put in a binder and placed on the altar during all the Masses throughout the holy places of the pilgrimage.

On Monday – Thursday, June 10-13, there will be no Confessions or public Masses at the parish. The rosary, novenas, and our Adoration times will still all take place. Here's the schedule for the week:

- Monday, June 10: Rosary at 5:00 PM; Miraculous Medal Novena at 5:30 PM; Adoration from 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM.
- Tuesday, June 11: Rosary at 11:30 AM; Saint Peregrine Novena at 12 Noon; Adoration from 12:15 PM – 2:15 PM; Benediction at 2:15 PM.

- Wednesday, June 12: Rosary at 11:30 AM; Saint Dymphna Novena at 12 Noon; Adoration from 12:15 PM – 2:15 PM; Benediction at 2:15 PM.
- Thursday, June 13: Rosary at 11:30 AM; Divine Mercy Chaplet at 12 Noon. No fellowship.

On Saturday – Sunday, June 15-16, Father Colin Blatchford from [Courage International](#) will be visiting our parish again. He'll hear Saturday evening's Confessions and offer our weekend Masses. *Welcome, Father Blatchford!*

On Monday – Thursday, June 17-20, Father Blatchford will stay at our parish and cover our daily Confessions and Masses. There are no changes to our liturgical and devotional schedule this week. *Thank you, Father Blatchford!*

The parish is happy to host a three-day pilgrimage on August 21-23 to the holy places in Washington, DC. The pilgrimage will include a visit to the John Paul II Shrine. [Here's the flyer](#) for more information. Please note the deadline in mid-June.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

Periodically, people ask me about sacred gifts that can be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one. With that in mind, I'd like to announce some opportunities for memorial/honorific gifts. The parish is currently in need of a green cope, violet cope, white cope, and gold cope for the offering of Vespers throughout the year. One cope cost \$2,000. Anyone who would like to donate a cope in memory or in honor of a loved one, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org. In addition, the parish is in need of a new Sunday white chasuble, which costs \$1,000. This can also be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please contact me if you're interested.

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.

This Fall, from October 20-29, 2024, I'll be hosting a personal pilgrimage to the holy places of Ireland. I know that many of you, like myself, come from Irish stock and this pilgrimage could be a way for all of us to connect to the spiritual portions of our cultural roots. The pilgrimage will include visits to Wicklow, Glendalough, Tipperary, Rock of Cashel, Kerry, Dingle Peninsula, Shannon, Cliffs Of Moher,

Corcomroe Abbey, Galway, Corrib Lake, Clonmacnoise, Dublin, and especially the Shrine at Knock. [Here's a link](#) for more information.

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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