

May 5, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection continues! He is Risen and dwells among us! Are we taking this truth to heart? Are we recognizing the presence of the Risen Christ among us?

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

This past week, the Bishop appointed me the [*Censor Librorum*](#) of the diocese, which means I'll review books for him and assist him in any writing or editorial needs that he might need.

Last week, the Church celebrated the tenth anniversary of the canonization of Pope Saint John Paul II. As a part of the anniversary, I was a part of an interview on the beloved pope's last encyclical which was on the Eucharist. I encourage parishioners to watch the interview and hear about John Paul II's love for the Lord Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist. [Here's the link](#) to the interview.

This 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 this 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 Wednesday faith formation programs are now on summer hiatus. Thank you to all the families and parishioners who participated in our programs this year!

Our Wednesday evening Confessions are also on hiatus until the formation programs resume in the Fall.

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

Our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the practice of the faith will be Monday evening, May 13, at 7:00 PM. All are invited to walk the Stations and pray for those who have fallen away.

Our May Crowning this year will be next 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.

Following the recommendation of the Crown Committee, I've asked Regina Smith to crown Our Lady this year. Regina is a retired school teacher, a founder of our parish, and currently runs our expansive Hospitality Ministry. Regina accepted the invitation and will crown Our Lady on May 12. *Thank you, Regina! Congratulations!*

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:

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.

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

Daily Reflections available through MorningOffering.com.