

**May 12, 2024**

***From Father Kirby...***

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue to rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, as today we celebrate his Ascension to the Father. The entire Easter Season is about the glory God offers us in Jesus Christ!

This weekend, we honor and thank all our mothers for their love and selfless service to their families! We ask God to bless them for saying “yes” to their vocation! *Happy Mother’s Day!*

This Sunday, May 12, our May Crowning will be celebrated 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.

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

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.

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.

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

As a reminder, 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!

Also, 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.

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

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 work on our new parish website continues. It will still be a couple of months before we'll be able to launch it, but I wanted to make the parish family aware that it is still under development.

On May 20-23, I'll be attending an on-site training in Trauma Care at the Columbia International University in Columbia, SC. The training will better equip me to understand and assist those who are grieving or in trauma. Please remember me and the other participants in your prayers.

While I'm away, Father Bob Morey will cover Confessions and daily Masses from Monday – Wednesday, May 20 – 22.

On Thursday, May 23, there is no daily Mass. The rosary will be prayed at 11:30 AM and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed at 12:00 PM. There's no Thursday fellowship.

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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