

May 19, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Pentecost, Team Grace! Thank you for everyone who was able to wear red this Sunday! The color symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit within us as baptized Christians.

As the apostles and Our Lady received the Holy Spirit, so each of us has also received that same Spirit. Today, we rejoice in the presence of the Holy Spirit among us, as he works and yearns to bring forth the kingdom of God in us and through us!

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

As you can see, work continues on our parish columbarium. The frequent rains have tremendously slowed things down and so we're devoting all our efforts to the columbarium. It's our hope to complete the columbarium by early June. As we complete the columbarium, our attention will shift back to the font hill and Marian Grotto. I'll give more updates as we move along.

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.

This coming week, I was scheduled to be away at a counseling workshop for trauma victims at Columbia International University. In a shocking move, the administration disinvited me after they realized I was a Catholic priest. I took an on-line course on psychopathology at the university this past semester, but - apparently - they were not aware of my religious affiliation, although I indicated it on the application form. I'm still very surprised by this development. Needless to say, I will not be at the course this coming week, and so I'll be here for Confessions, Masses, and my regular parish duties, Monday - Thursday. May 20-23.

Our next prayer outreach is this Saturday, May 25, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to come and join us in this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion. The abortion 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.

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:

Next Sunday, May 26, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday at 12:15 PM in the Parish Hall. Come and join us for fellowship and a donut!

This year, Memorial Day is Monday, May 27. The parish will have a Memorial Day Mass at 11:00 AM. The Mass will be followed by a bagpipe procession to the columbarium and the blessing of a Memorial Wreath. All are encouraged to come and pray for our fallen heroes.

For the month of June, our First Saturday observances will be held on Saturday, June 8. We always attempt to keep First Fridays and First Saturdays together. For those who are doing the First Saturdays, the norms for the promises allow for this extension of the Mass and other conditions.

On Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, we'll have one of our periodic Formation Days. The theme of this session will be: *The Apparitions of Our Lady Throughout the World*. Come and learn about the many apparitions of Our Lady and their different meanings and messages. All are welcome!

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!

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.

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.