

**July 14, 2024**

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

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue to walk through Ordinary Time, hearing the call of Mother Church to recommit ourselves to the Lord Jesus. In our lives, do we allow the Lordship of Jesus Christ to guide all our decisions? Is the Gospel the standard of our lives?

It's good to be back at the parish! As some of you might recall, I was away assisting at a priest retreat in West Virginia. After the retreat, I was able to visit our friends at EWTN before heading home this past Friday evening. It's sometimes good to be away and assist in other efforts of the Church, but it's always fantastic to get back home! You were missed, Team Grace! *It's great to be home!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Tuesday, July 16, at 12 Noon, we'll have our annual Scapular Mass. All baptized Christians are invited to come and be invested (or devotionally reinvested) in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The parish provides free Brown Scapulars to everyone who participates in the Mass.

The National Eucharistic Congress will be held in Indianapolis this week on July 17-21. Our parish will not be sending any delegates since we devoted all our resources toward our diocesan Eucharistic Congress this past April. We pray for the National Eucharistic Congress and ask God to bless our Church with a deeper Eucharistic faith and devotion.

I'm very happy to announce that starting this Thursday, July 18, we'll have a weekly praying of the Morning Prayer (Lauds) of the Liturgy of the Hours in our parish church on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. All are welcome!

On Saturday, July 20, we'll have a special summer Formation Day from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon. The theme of the Formation Day is: *Understanding Good Spirits, Bad Spirits, and the Battle at Hand*. All are welcome!

Starting next Saturday, July 20, we'll have a Fellowship after our Saturday evening Vespers. I invite everyone to come for Vespers at 4:00 PM and stay for fellowship afterwards!

The work continues on our parish columbarium! The contractors finished the pavers and fencing in the back. Now the main work is landscaping and refining the interior of the columbarium. We are nearing the end of the project! I am eager to bless our new columbarium soon!

Our new parish website is still under construction. The first mock-up looked good. Our leadership sent some suggestions to the webmaster and now work begins on the second mock-up. Our goal is to have the new website up and running before programs start this Fall.

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.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

In honor of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parish will offer a special blessing to all grandparents next weekend, July 20-21.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, July 27, at 8:30 AM. All are encouraged to come and join us in peaceful, prayerful protest as we oppose the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Circle, Charlotte, NC.

On Sunday, July 28, there will be an Anniversary Fellowship around 12:15 PM to celebrate my 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination. All are welcome!

Our next First Friday and First Saturday are August 2-3. Please plan ahead and join your parish family for our monthly Nocturnal Adoration.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

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.

Due to some unexpected pastoral duties this October, I've regrettably had to cancel my planned pilgrimage to Ireland. Later next year, however, I'll be hosting a [pilgrimage to Italy in March](#) for the Jubilee Year and a [pilgrimage in the footsteps](#)

[of Saint Paul](#) (Greece and Turkey) in June. I'll post more information on these pilgrimages in the weeks to come.

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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