

July 21, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The call of Ordinary Time is the call to discipleship. Are we seeking to grow every day in our relationship with the Lord Jesus? The Church re-proclaims the Gospel to us and calls us to a deeper commitment to the Lord. What is our response?

In honor of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parish will offer a special blessing to all our grandparents this weekend. *Happy Grandparent's Day!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups for the Saint Cecilia Girls Choir. All girls and young women of the parish are encouraged to be generous with their talents and sign up and be a part of this amazing choir!

In light of the recent claims of divine intervention and Divine Providence in our national conversation, I recorded a talk with the Saint Paul Center on the [supernatural worldview of the Christian](#) to help clarify these terms and what they mean. We've talked about this worldview before as a parish family and so the talk is a good review and reminder to us all of God's presence and care for us.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming 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.

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

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:

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

Our next Saint Paula Dinner for Widows is Tuesday, August 6, at 5:00 PM. *All widows of the parish are invited!* We'll start with a quiet praying of the Liturgy of the Hours in the Parish Hall. And then after our meal, we'll walk through our parish church and talk about some of the saints depicted in our statues and stained glass.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process by which a person seeks baptism as a Christian. It also serves to help baptized non-Catholic Christians to receive formation and enter into the fullness of the Catholic Church. Our Deacon Candidate, Binh Davis, is now running this process. He has scheduled two Meet-and-Greets to serve as opportunities for anyone to come and find out more about the OCIA. There are no commitments or expectations. The Meet-and-Greets will be on Saturday, August 10, at 6:30 PM, and Sunday, August 11, at 12:30 PM. All inquirers are welcome!

Everyone is welcome to join us for Vespers every Saturday at 4:00 PM. A casual Fellowship follows Vespers. All are welcome!

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.

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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