

**July 28, 2024**

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

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As the summer moves along, we are in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time and Mother Church is directing us to reevaluate and reassess where we stand with the Lord Jesus. Ordinary Time is about discipleship. How's your discipleship? Where do you stand with the Lord?

This 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!

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, August 2-3. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family.

After our Sunday morning Masses, there are free Saint Benedict medals in the narthex. All families are asked to take one of the medals for their homes. The medal is recognized as a means by which God removes bad spirits and protects souls. [This article](#) explains the medal.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Our parish takes adult formation very seriously. We seek to provide as many resources as possible for all of us to grow in our discipleship. These resources include:

- The digital platform [FORMED](#), which is packed with resources on our faith, the Bible, saints, and everything in-between! This resource is paid for by a donor and made available for free to all parishioners. If you haven't already, please sign up today!
- The digital platform [EWTN OnDemand](#). Currently, this resource is provided for free by EWTN. It also includes resources on our faith, the Bible, current events, the saints, and many other topics. If you haven't already, please sign up today!
- *The Catholic Miscellany*, which is our monthly diocesan magazine. The expense for the magazine is covered by the parish.
- The monthly Liturgy of the Hours, which is the formal prayers of the Church based on the Book of Psalms. The expense for the monthly prayer books is

covered by the parish, which is assisted by sporadic gift donations from parishioners.

- The monthly book give-away during our Nocturnal Adoration. These books are covered by various donors.

I hope the above resources are a help to each of you as we seek to love and serve the Lord Jesus more faithfully.

For any parishioners who would like to assist with the monthly book give-away, we're currently looking for donors for the following books: *The Devotion To The Sacred Heart* (\$1,800); *30 Day Eucharistic Revival* (\$2,400); *Purgatory* (\$1,600); and, *Saints Who Battled with Satan* (\$1,600). If desired, the intention of the donor and a prayer request of the donor will be announced during the First Friday Mass. If anyone is interested in assisting with this project, please email me directly: [Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandiocese.org).

This Friday, August 2, at 7:00 PM, we'll have our monthly First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of the Lord Jesus. Confessions will follow after the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This Saturday, August 3, at 11:00 AM, we'll have our monthly Healing Mass. Confessions precede the Mass from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. The rosary is at 10:30 AM. After the Healing Mass, we have our intercessory prayer teams and our monthly parish brunch.

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:

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

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!

The weekend of August 10-11, the parish will hold its annual School Supply Drive. All school supplies will go to children in Lancaster County. In consultation with local school officials, our drive will focus on three specific items: Kleenex boxes of facial tissue, Number 2 pencils, and crayons.

The parish is happy once again to host two blood buses here on our campus. The buses will be here on Sunday, August 11. As a pro-life people we should do all that we can to support and serve life. This includes donating blood! Please [sign up here](#) to be a donor. *Please note: prior sign-ups are required.*

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is Thursday, August 15. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Masses here at the parish are: Wednesday, August 14, at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM; Thursday, August 15, at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Confessions will be available after all the Holy Day Masses.

With the Holy Day schedule, there is no Noon Mass on August 14 or August 15. We will still have the Saint Dymphna Novena at 12:45 PM and Adoration from 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM on August 14.

The parish is very happy to host Sister Deirdre “Dede” Burnes of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts. Sister is a surgeon, served in the US military, is a combat veteran, and a Bride of Christ. Sister Dede will be here on Friday, August 23. There will be a sacred music concert at 6:30 PM and a talk at 7:00 PM. Sister will talk on: *I Found the Love of Jesus*. All are welcome. A fellowship will follow Sister Dede’s talk.

The work continues on our parish columbarium. The workers are concluding different parts of the lighting and brickwork, as well as the landscaping. *Please note* that we are not permitted by diocesan policy to sell new niches until the project is complete. Once the new columbarium is complete, we’ll announce the availability of new niches.

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'm happy to host 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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