

July 7, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! During Ordinary Time, Mother Church covers herself in green. She's giving us an external reminder of the internal growth that should be happening within our souls during this liturgical season. As we once hear again the Gospel, let's all recommit ourselves to the Lord Jesus!

I pray everyone had a relaxing and rejuvenating July 4th celebration! May God continue to bless the United States of America!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As a Papal Missionary of Mercy, I'm periodically called to assist as a confessor and spiritual director for priest retreats. This coming week, July 8-11, I'll be assisting at a retreat in Wheeling, West Virginia. Father Robert Morey will be covering our daily Masses and Confessions while I'm away. *Welcome back, Father Morey!*

The preparation for investiture (or devotional re-investiture) in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady begins this Monday, July 8. If you plan to be invested (or re-invested) in the Brown Scapular on July 16, the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, then it's recommended you make the nine-day preparation. My recent book, [*A Journey to Mount Carmel: A Nine-Day Preparation for Investiture in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady*](#), can be a resource and help for the preparation.

This Monday evening, July 8, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Stations of the Cross for all those who have left the practice of the Faith. All are welcome to come and walk the Stations for the swift return of all who have fallen away!

Recently, I recorded a miniseries on the Brown Scapular with EWTN. The miniseries will run this Monday – Friday, July 8-12, at 5:30 PM each night. The miniseries can be watched when it initially airs, or any time later on [EWTN OnDemand](#).

Work continues on our parish columbarium! The contractors have concluded the electrical connections and are now working diligently on the pavers.

Our new parish website is still under construction. We'll have the first mock-up presented to leadership this week. Our goal is to have the new website up and running before our programming year starts 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:

On 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.

I'm very happy to announce that starting 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!

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

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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: [@fatherkirby](https://twitter.com/fatherkirby)

[Monthly Newsletter](#)

[Weekly spirituality Column](#)

Daily Reflections available through MorningOffering.com.