

September 1, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! After going through the Bread of Life Discourse in Saint John's Gospel, Chapter 6, over the past four Sundays, we now move back to Saint Mark's Gospel. Today, the Lord will once again place spiritual things above material things. He will direct our hearts to the proper use of the things of this world and call us to deeper conversion.

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday evening and Saturday morning, September 6-7. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family.

This weekend in the narthex, we also have a table of free books. The various books are leftovers from books we've given out for various events. Please take whatever you'd like!

The parish campus and church will be closed this Monday, September 2, for Labor Day. There is no public Mass. All other public events are suspended. Have a relaxing holiday! God bless America!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'd like to give a quick update on YouTube. When the parish first opened, I started my personal YouTube page "Grace Lily." I chose the name since it would include some items from the parish ("Grace") and other items from my writings and evangelization projects (hence, "Lily," a symbol of the Resurrection). During the pandemic, we used Grace Lily since many parishioners were already familiar with it and it was already set up and ready to go. As things have calmed down in our post-pandemic world, I'll be posting others content on my YouTube page and have changed the name to "Daily Discipleship." And so, there is no longer a "Grace Lily" page. It is now entitled "Daily Discipleship." This new name better summarizes the goal of the page. I'll continue to use the new "Daily Discipleship" YouTube page for content from the parish, but there will also be new and more expansive content available for everyone.

This Tuesday, September 3, we'll start a new formation program at the parish. Our diaconal discernor, Charlie Petrizzo, will walk through the *Great Adventure Bible*

Study from 1:00 – 2:10 PM. The program gives a broad survey of salvation history and the Bible. All are welcome!

Our parish Book Club will start back up this Wednesday, September 4, at 1:00 PM. The group is currently walking through Father Jacques Philippe's book, [*Searching for and Maintaining Peace*](#). No registrations or sign-ups are needed. All are welcome! For more information, please reach out to Deacon Doc Donofrio at bdonofrio@charlestdioocese.org.

This Wednesday, September 4, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults begins. This is the process by which someone is prepared for baptism or for those who are already baptized and are seeking to enter into the Catholic Church. For more information, please reach out to Binh Davis: bdavis@charlestdioocese.org.

Our Wednesday evening Formation Nights start back up this Wednesday, September 4, from 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM. The evening includes our youth formation programs, as well as our study of the Book of Exodus for adults. All parishioners are invited to come!

Please note that evening Confessions resume on Wednesday evenings, starting this Wednesday, September 4, from 6:00 – 6:30 PM.

This Thursday, September 5, at 10:30 AM, our Women's Faith Formation program starts back up. All women of the parish are invited to be a part of this fellowship and study! For the Fall, the group will walk through the Beatitudes. For more information, please reach out to Carole King at carole.king@charlestdioocese.org.

This coming Friday, September 6, at 7:00 PM, we'll have our monthly First Friday Mass of the Sacred Heart. Confessions will follow the Mass until Midnight.

This coming Saturday, September 7, we have our monthly First Saturday Healing Mass at 11:00 AM. Confessions precede the Mass from 9:00 AM -10:30 AM. Our intercessory prayer teams and monthly Parish Brunch will follow the Mass. All are welcome!

Next Sunday (September 8), we have our annual Fall Festival around 12:30 PM. There'll be games, food, and fun for everyone! Please come and join us! Bring some friends! All are welcome!

I'm happy to announce that at 10:00 AM on Monday, September 23, we will have the Solemn Transferal of Cremains from our current columbarium to our new Holy Angels Columbarium. All parishioners are invited to come and participate in the procession and participate in Mass. Please meet us at our current columbarium (near the rectory) at 10:00 AM. Mass will be offered after the procession at our new Holy Angels Columbarium. A fellowship will follow the Mass.

The formal blessing of the new Holy Angels Columbarium will happen after the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, September 29. All are invited to come for the blessing and share in fellowship afterwards. New niches can be purchased at the blessing and any time afterwards.

Team Grace, there is a problem with some of our collection envelopes. For some packets, September has an extra Capital Projects envelope but is missing a regular collection envelope for September 1. In addition, October has an extra Capital Projects envelope, but is missing the October 6 regular collection envelope, and October 27 is a card instead of an envelope. If these mistakes affect you, please accept my apologies! We have communicated with OSV and are working to ensure this does not happen again!

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:

As a reminder, the reception of First Holy Communion is independent of our Faith Formation programs. While on-going formation is necessary for First Holy Communion, our catechetical program itself does not prepare a child for their First Holy Communion. The reception of First Holy Communion requires active participation at Mass and in parish life. If a parent thinks a child is ready for their First Holy Communion, they should reach out to Carrie Scibelli, our Liturgy Coordinator, for information on the review process for the sacrament. Carrie can be reached at cscibelli@charlestdiocese.org.

In the Spring, the Bishop will be visiting our parish to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. More information will be given as details are set.

It was our hope to host Paul Nelson for a talk on evangelization on September 13. Regrettably, this event has fallen through. Instead, we will host a Formation Day on September 14.

On September 14, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, we'll have one of our sporadic Formation Days. Our topic for this Formation Day will be the mystery of the prophets. Who are these holy ones? What can we learn from them? Please bring a Bible with you! All are welcome!

Our new parish website is still under construction. Things always move slower than we want! We are still in the process of making additional modifications to the new website and hope to launch it soon. Our goal is to have the new website up and running as our 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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Twitter: [@fatherkirby](#)

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Daily Reflections available through MorningOffering.com.