

September 15, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We are blessed to be disciples of the Lord Jesus! During this season of Ordinary Time, we are called to assess our discipleship and to make clear resolutions on how we can be better and more faithful disciples to him.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As a reminder, we have daily Mass at 12 Noon on Tuesdays. After the Mass, we have the novena prayers to Saint Peregrine for all those who are fighting cancer. All are welcome to come and pray with us!

I'm happy to announce that we are now able to record and post our Wednesday evening Bible Study on my YouTube page, [Daily Discipleship](#). The study is not live but is usually posted later on Wednesday evenings.

As we start our program year, I'd like to release our parish [Annual Report and Budget](#). Please direct any questions you might have to our Business Manager, Sandy Petrizzo: spetrizzo@charlestdiocese.org. I'm grateful to all the families and parishioners who support the mission and work of our parish!

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:

With our national election coming in early November, I'd like to make available to you the voting document, [Simply Catholic](#). It's a brief document that summarizes our Catholic beliefs and our areas of interest and concern as we discern and prepare to vote. As a reminder, as Catholics we are sometimes put in the position where we have to vote for "the lesser of two evils." Politics is a dirty business and there is rarely a flawless candidate.

In honor of the Guardian Angels, we'll offer a special blessing to all babies and small children (unborn to age two) during our Masses next Sunday, September 22.

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.

Saturday, September 28, the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a Family Life Conference at Saint Matthew's Parish. All are welcome, but there is a charge for the event. [Please view the flyer here](#). I've been asked to be a speaker at the event and address speaking moral truth with love.

Since I'll be at the family life event Saturday, September 28, there will be no Confessions at 3:00 PM. I'll arrive back in time for Solemn Vespers.

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.

During the fellowship after the blessing of our columbarium, there will be three important booths: Sandy Petrizzo from our Business Office will be available for anyone who wishes to purchase a niche; Monty Bennett, our parish Funeral Coordinator, will be available with funeral pre-planning packets; and a representative from [Heritage Funeral Homes](#) (which is our preferred funeral home as a parish) will be available to initiate pre-planning with them. I'm happy to announce that Heritage will give a 10% discount to anyone who initiates a pre-planning process with them during our fellowship event.

As our parish columbarium is completed and blessed, our focus will now turn to the front hill and our Marian Grotto. Hopefully the rain will stay away and let our laborers work!

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.

Our new parish website is still under construction. We are behind schedule and hope to launch something soon.

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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