

September 22, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue our journey with the Lord Jesus and seek to examine our discipleship with him during this season of Ordinary Time. We are followers of the Lord Jesus. Are we following him in all the aspects of our lives? How can we do better?

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

In the narthex this weekend, we have Angel Holy Cards with a prayer for our nation. I encourage all parishioners to take a holy card and pray for our country, especially as our general elections approach in early November.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

With our national election fast approaching, I'd like to pass along 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.

This Monday, September 23, we'll 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.

As we begin our new program year, we're 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.

Starting this Wednesday, September 25, at 1:00 PM, our parish Book Club will start the new book, [*Listen to Your Blessed Mother*](#) by Gary Zimak. All are welcome to come and join in the conversation!

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming Saturday, September 28, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to come and join in our peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Circle, Charlotte, NC.

Also this coming 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 next Saturday, September 28, there will be no Confessions at 3:00 PM. I'll arrive back in time for Solemn Vespers.

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:

The formal blessing of the new Holy Angels Columbarium will happen after the 11:00 AM Mass next 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!

Our next Saint Paula Dinner for Widows is Tuesday, October 1, at 5:00 PM. The group will meet in the Parish Hall. Carrie Scibelli will facilitate the meeting and our Deacon Candidate, Binh Davis, will talk about his journey of faith and his path to

the diaconate. All widows are invited to come! Please bring your Liturgy of the Hours book with you.

As a Papal Missionary of Mercy, I am periodically expected to be at priest retreats as a confessor and spiritual director. As such, I'll be away assisting at a priest retreat in Orlando, Florida, from Monday – Thursday, September 30 - October 3. Please remember to pray for your priests!

While I'm away, Father Robert Morey will hear Confessions and offer the Masses from Monday – Wednesday, September 30- October 2.

Please note, however, that there will be no Wednesday evening Confessions on October 2.

Please also note that there will be no Mass on Thursday, October 3. We will still have Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM and we'll have the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 12:00 PM, but there is no Fellowship that day.

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 but moving closer to completion. We hope to have something up by November.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

The parish is happy to host another module of the Young Theologians this Fall. The Young Theologians is a group for high school young people who take their discipleship seriously, have a mastery of basic Catholic doctrine, and are interested and eager to dive deeper into certain aspects of our Faith. The Fall module has five sessions on Mondays: October 21 and 28, and November 4, 11, and 18. The group meets from 4:00 – 5:15 PM. If a young person is interested, a parent should reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org.

I was recently made aware that my miniseries on discipleship and the Brown Scapular has posted on EWTN OnDemand. [Here's the link](#). Enjoy!

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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