

October 6, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The Lord continues to call us, and we are invited to say “yes” every day and in a dozen different ways each day. Our walk with the Lord is the way of the Cross. We seek to die to ourselves so that we can live more fully for Jesus Christ.

This Sunday, October 6, we’ll have our annual Rosary Procession before our 11:00 AM Mass. *All parishioners are strongly encouraged to come and honor Our Lady and her holy Rosary!* Parishioners are asked to join us near the flags at the entrance of our campus around 10:45 AM.

Also, this Sunday at 2:00 PM, we’ll have our annual Blessing of Pets at the pavilion in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. *All pet owners are invited to bring their pets!* Ice cream will be served after the blessing!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This past week, the column from our old columbarium was moved to our new Holy Angels Columbarium. We were also able to place our holy angel statues in the columbarium. There is still some small work to be done at the base of the column, but things are all coming together! Please stop by and pray at our new Holy Angels Columbarium!

Now that our Holy Angels Columbarium is blessed, parishioners can purchase a niche (or relocate a niche) at any time. Please contact Sandy Petrizzo for more information: spetrizzo@charlestdiocese.org.

This Monday, October 7, our parish Rosarians will meet for a Day of Recollection. The Rosarians are the men and women who lead the public rosary at our parish. We’re thankful for their prayerful service to us! *Thank you, Rosarians!* If anyone would like to become a Rosarian, please reach out to Barbara Bancker: bbbancker@yahoo.com.

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.

Next weekend, October 12-13, we'll offer special blessing of eyes in honor of Saint Lucy. Our parish has the grace to have a stained-glass window of the powerful saint and so we'd like to ask her intercession for our eyesight and eye care. After each Mass, individual blessings will be available.

Also, next weekend, October 12-13, the parish will be hosting a Food Drive for [HOPE in Lancaster](#). The outreach center is asking for three specific items: dry cereal, canned pasta (Chef Boyardee), and 64oz juice (plastic bottles please). All parishioners are asked to participate in the drive. Please bring the food with you to Mass and drop it off at the pavilion before you come into the church. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be at the pavilion to help you. Thank you!

Next Sunday, October 13, the parish will host two blood buses. Please be generous and sign up to give blood! As a pro-life people, we are called to serve life and this involves many things, including giving blood. Sign-ups are required. [Here's the link](#).

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 diocesan priest retreat will be next Monday- Thursday, October 14-17. Father Kirby will be away with our Bishop and the priests of the diocese. There are no public Masses that week.

On Saturday, October 19, at 9:00 AM, the parish is hosting a Men's Work Day. The men of the parish (and their sons) are invited to come and help us take down and landscape what was our old columbarium. For more information, please reach out to Wesley Dry: wdry@charlestdiocese.org.

On the weekend of October 19-20, the parish will offer special blessings of ears in honor of Saint Frances de Sales. The saint's feast day is in January, but there's a need for such blessings now. At the end of all our weekend Masses, individual blessings will be offered.

All children of the parish are invited to come to the 5:00 PM Mass on All Hallows' Eve (All Saint's Day Eve) dressed as a saint or holy one in our tradition. The children will be blessed at the end of Mass. After the Mass, our Secular Franciscans will host

a Trick-or-Treat in the Parish Hall. Children can attend the event, moving from one table to another, learning about Franciscan saints, and receiving some candy treats.

Our new parish website is still under construction but moving closer to completion. We hope to have something up by November.

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.

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

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@charlestandioocese.org.

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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