

October 13, 2024

*From Father Kirby...*

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! During this Ordinary Time, we're called to draw closer to the Lord Jesus and to go deeper in our discipleship. Where do you stand with the Lord?

The month of October is the month of the Holy Rosary. I encourage all parishioners to turn to Our Lady as their spiritual mother and to regularly pray the Rosary! [This link can help.](#)

This weekend, October 12-13, we'll offer a special blessing of eyes in honor of Saint Lucy. Our parish is blessed 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.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in our Food Drive for [HOPE in Lancaster!](#)

Thank you also to all those who signed up to give blood. Your donation of blood literally saves lives!

After deliberating with the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, other parish leaders, and members of our professional staff for some time, I've made the decision to suspend our Saturday evening 5:00 PM Mass after Saturday, October 26, and begin a new 7:30 AM Mass as of Sunday, November 3. It's believed by parish leaders and me that a Sunday morning Mass would be more helpful to the parish. Our Saturday evening Mass has waned, and our Sunday morning Masses have packed parking lots and pews. The addition of an earlier morning Sunday Mass is needed to alleviate some of that congestion. If any parishioners have any thoughts or concerns, I encourage them to reach out to me directly: [Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org).

The diocesan priest retreat will be this coming Monday- Thursday, October 14-17. I'll be away with our Bishop and the priests of the diocese. There are no Confessions or public Masses this week. Our regular devotions will still take place. Please come and pray with your parish family.

On Monday, October 14, we'll have the Rosary at 5:00 PM; the Miraculous Medal Novena at 5:30 PM; Adoration from 5:45 PM – 6:55; and Benediction at 6:55 PM.

This Monday evening, at 7:00 PM, we'll also have our monthly Novena to St. Monica and the Stations of the Cross for those who have left the Faith. All parishioners are encouraged to come and walk the Stations for their loved ones who have left the Church.

On Tuesday, October 15, we'll have the Rosary at 11:30 AM; the Saint Peregrine Novena at 12:00 Noon; Adoration from 12:15 PM – 2:15 PM; and Benediction at 2:15 PM.

Also, this Tuesday at 10:30 AM, the Our Lady's Helpers will have a Meet-and-Greet. The group consists of the men and women who clean and care for the sacred areas of our church. Any parishioner can be a member of the group. Please reach out to Dianne Petrino for more information: [meise604@yahoo.com](mailto:meise604@yahoo.com).

On Wednesday, October 16, we'll have the Rosary at 11:30 AM; the Saint Dymphna Novena at 12:00 Noon; Adoration from 12:15 PM – 2:15 PM; and Benediction at 2:15 PM.

Although I'll be away, we'll still have our adult Bible Study this Wednesday at 6:30 PM. I'm pre-recording a lesson on Exodus, and it'll be shown for the study.

On Thursday, October 17, we'll have Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM; the Rosary at 11:30 AM; and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 12:00 Noon. There is no Fellowship on Thursday.

Next 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 used to be our old columbarium. For more information, please reach out to Wesley Dry: [wdry@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:wdry@charlestdiocese.org).

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:

Next weekend, 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.

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](mailto:Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org).

Starting Thursday, October 24, our Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM will be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It will also be Lauds from the Office of the Dead. This will give us an opportunity to pray for the faithful departed, especially for the beloved dead of our families. Adoration and morning Confessions will follow Lauds until 11:20 AM. The Rosary is at 11:30 AM and our regular Mass is at Noon.

All children of the parish are invited to come to the 5:00 PM Mass on All Hallows' Eve (All Saint's Day Eve), October 31, 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 and other treats. *All children and their parents are welcome!*

On Saturday evening, November 2, the feast of All Souls, the parish will host a Thanksgiving Dinner in honor of our Beloved Dead. All parishioners are invited to come to Vespers at 4:00 PM and join us for this special dinner after Vespers.

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:

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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