

October 27, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we continue our walk with the Lord Jesus, we have an opportunity this week to honor all the saints in heaven. This includes not only the canonized saints, but also the saints that are perhaps only known to us and our families. We also have an opportunity to pray for the souls who are still being purified by the Lord Jesus in Purgatory. I encourage you to use these spiritual opportunities to draw closer to the Lord!

Congratulations to Binh Davis, our Deacon Candidate, who received his Master of Arts in Theology this past week. The completion of his academic degree is one of the last steps of his diaconal formation. Binh is scheduled to be ordained a permanent Deacon on February 1, 2025. Please remember him in your prayers!

This weekend in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, November 1-2. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and to your parish family.

On the table with the Adoration sign-ups are free parish magnets for your cars. Please take as many as you like and let the community know you're a member of Team Grace!

The time has come for Secular Christmas to rear its nasty head. Please be cautious and do not fall into its snares. Secular Christmas has nothing to do with our Faith or with the holy Nativity of our Savior. [Here's a link](#) to last year's homily on this subject.

I'm happy to announce that the parish has its own YouTube channel. [Here's the link](#) to the channel. I encourage all parishioners to subscribe to the channel and keep up to date on parish Bible studies, homilies, and other spiritual resources.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This week in the narthex, my new book is available for purchase. Entitled, [*Real Discipleship: How to Follow Jesus His Way – Not Ours*](#), the book dissects the call of the Lord Jesus to be one of his disciples. Please take a look and purchase a copy if you think it can help you!

As announced the past two weekends, 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 *as of this 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@charlestandiocese.org.

With the change of our Sunday Mass times, we're also adjusting the hours of our campus and church building. The new hours will allow greater access to the campus and church. Please review the new hours here: [New Campus and Church Building Hours](#).

As oftentimes happens at a parish, our Mass intentions have filled for the year (from now until June 30). The Mass book for next year will open in the Spring. I'll announce the day once it's been decided. In the interim, I encourage any parishioners who want Masses offered to reach out to a Religious house. Some of my favored Religious houses are: the [Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in the United States](#), the [National Shrine of the Divine Mercy](#), and the [National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton](#). Parishioners can also reach out to our sister parish, [Saint Catherine's in Lancaster](#).

Starting this Wednesday, October 30 at 1:00 PM, our parish Book Club is starting a new book. Deacon Doc will lead the group through the Beatitudes by reading [Kingdom of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life](#). All are welcome!

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!*

This Friday, November 1, is the Solemnity of All Saints, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. All the baptized are required to participate in Mass for this Holy Day. Our Mass schedule at the parish is Thursday evening, October 31, at 5:00 PM, and

Friday at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM (which is also our First Friday Mass). As is our custom here, Confessions will be available after all the Holy Day Masses.

This Friday, after the 7:00 PM Mass, we'll have Confessions until Midnight.

This Saturday, November 2, Confessions will be heard from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM. The Rosary will be prayed at 10:30 AM.

Since the holy day All Souls, November 2, falls on a First Saturday, it will be observed much differently this year. Our only public Mass for All Souls will be at 11:00 AM (which is also our First Saturday Healing Mass). The formal Reading of Names will occur at this Mass.

After the First Saturday All Souls Mass, we'll have our regular intercessory prayer teams available in the church, and our monthly Parish Brunch in the Parish Hall.

This 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.

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 we near the observance of November as the Month of the Dead and the holy day of All Souls Day on November 2, I'd like to clarify some of our Catholic customs:

- The All Souls envelopes are for you to formally ask your local pastor to prayerfully remember your beloved dead through the next year. It is very important that you write the names of your loved ones on the envelopes. The names can be anyone who has died at any time. Please note: the All Souls collection goes directly to the priest. This is the only time in which collected funds go directly to the priest. However, checks should still be made out to the parish. *Please do not make any checks payable to me.* The parish will issue me a check on your behalf.
- The Book of the Dead will be placed by the baptismal font on November 1. Any and all of your beloved dead can be written in the book. It does not matter when your loved ones passed away. Anyone can be written in the book.

- The Reading of Names at our 11:00 AM Mass on All Souls is only for those who have died within the past liturgical year (November 2, 2023 – November 1, 2024). Please send your names to Carrie Scibelli, our Liturgy Coordinator: cscibelli@charlestandioocese.org.

Starting Tuesday, November 5, (Election Day), we will start having public weekly devotional prayers at the Holy Angels Columbarium at 9:30 AM. We will also start to have Morning Prayer (Lauds) of the Liturgy of the Hours at 10:00 AM in the church. All are welcome and encouraged to come!

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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