

October 20, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The journey of discipleship is a life's journey. The Church draws our attention to this truth during the season of Ordinary Time. During this liturgical season, we are called to evaluate our discipleship and to re-commit ourselves to the Lord Jesus. Are we committed to the Gospel? Does it shape the different areas and decisions of our lives?

It's good to be back! As some of you might recall, I was away on the diocesan priest retreat this past week. It's always a blessing to be with our Bishop and my brother priests, but it's also great to be home! *You were missed, Team Grace!*

In the narthex this weekend, we have sign-ups for the Live Nativity and Children's Choir. All children are invited to participate and be a part of the choir or Live Nativity!

Thank you to all the men and their sons who were a part of the Men's Work Day this Saturday. As you may have noticed when you drove onto campus, the men cleared the area of the old columbarium. *Thank you, Men!*

This 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 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.](#)

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As announced last weekend, 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@charlestandiocese.org.

Starting this 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.

This coming Saturday, October 26, at 8:30 AM, we'll have our monthly Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility. All parishioners are invited to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Circle, Charlotte, NC.

Recently, I've been told by several members of the Our Lady's Helpers (who are the ones who clean our church), that they have found nail clippings and gum in the pews. In addition, several people are tying and knotting the ribbons of our Missals. I remind everyone that we are in a sacred place and the items we use are for sacred purposes. Please do not clip your fingernails, chew gum, or cause damage to the private property of our church. I'm grateful for your attention to these matters!

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:

Starting 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!

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.

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!*

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.

As we near the observance of All Souls Day, 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@charlestdiocese.org.

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.

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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: [@fatherkirby](#)

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