

November 3, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! What a great time we had this past weekend! There were so many opportunities to grow in holiness! All Saints, First Friday, All Souls, and First Saturday all wrapped up into one huge gift from God! It's great being Catholic! Come, Holy Spirit!

This weekend marks our new weekend worship schedule:

Saturday at 4:00 PM: Solemn Vespers

Sunday at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM: Holy Mass

As we observe November as the Month of the Dead, 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 was 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 and I encourage you to do so since all of those written in the book will be remembered at all of our parish Masses during the month of November.

In contrast to our real liturgical year, 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:

Periodically, during parish programs, we try to have a nursery so our young parents can participate. Currently, we're looking for some additional volunteer Nursery Assistants for this service. If you're interested, please email Suzanna Allen: sallen@charlestandiocese.org.

We pray for our nation as we have our Election Day this Tuesday, November 5. May it be a peaceful day in which a civil, democratic people vote for their leadership! For those who may not have voted yet, [this video on voting](#) might help you.

Starting this Tuesday, November 5, 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!

This week, we conclude the Fall modules of our Christian formation programs. Our Wednesday evening Faith Formation, our Great Adventure Bible Study, our parish Book Club, and our Women's Faith Formation all come to a close this week. We'll go on hiatus this week until the early Spring season when we start our Spring modules of Christian formation.

This Tuesday, November 5, is the start date for our thirty-three days of preparation for the Consecration to Jesus through Mary. If you want to make (or renew) the Consecration on December 8, you'll need to begin the preparation this Tuesday. Here are some resources for the preparation from the [Catholic Crusade](#) and [Salesians Ireland](#). Here's a [great resource](#) from Catholic Answers on the Marian Consecration.

On Saturday, November 16, from 9:00 AM – Noon, we'll have one of our periodic Formation Days. For this session, we'll cover the topic of "The Private Apparitions of the Lord Jesus Through the Ages." What do the Sacred Heart apparitions and the Divine Mercy apparitions, and so many others, teach us about the Lord Jesus and his way of love?

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](#).

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:

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.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called for a Jubilee of Hope in the year 2025. The Ordinary Jubilees are held every twenty-five years. The last Jubilee was in the year 2000. The next one after 2025 will be in 2050. Many of us may not be around here for that one! For the Jubilee of 2025, I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to Rome and the holy places of Italy in March. [Here's some information on the pilgrimage](#). If you're able, and you think it can help your discipleship, please consider coming on this pilgrimage!

I'm also happy to host a [pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Paul](#) (Greece and Turkey) in June. I'll post more information on this pilgrimage 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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