

November 10, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue to make our way through Ordinary Time and its emphasis on discipleship. We also continue to remember the faithful departed during this devotional Month of the Dead.

This weekend, we honor all those who served in our Armed Forces. We'll offer a blessing to our veterans at the end of all our Masses. In honor of our veterans, our concluding hymn will be a patriotic hymn.

Our Patriotic Banner will be displayed this weekend and will remain at our entrance until Thanksgiving weekend. May God continue to bless the United States of America!

Please remember 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

I'm happy to announce that our Bishop will be visiting the parish on March 1, 2025. The Bishop will be visiting to confer Confirmation on the young people of our parish. Any young adult, who is in the 7th grade and above, can petition for Confirmation. The petition is made to me as your pastor. As a help in this process, I ask that anyone who wishes to petition for Confirmation, please reach out to Carrie Scibelli, our Liturgy Coordinator. Carrie will walk you through the paperwork and process. She can be reached at: cscibelli@charlestdiocese.org. Please note: *If a young person is not regularly attending Sunday Mass, and if they are not living the Christian way of life, then they are not yet ready for Confirmation.*

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:

Thank you to the men of the parish who are helping to clear and level the area of our old columbarium. As the work continues to move forward, our landscaper will sod the area. Just imagine, Team Grace, we will finally have some version of a lawn!

With the completion of our new Holy Angels Columbarium, our landscape architect and his team are now directing their focus on the Marian Grotto and the front hill of our campus. Currently, they're planning to begin work on these projects in two weeks.

This Monday evening, November 11, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the practice of the faith. All are invited to come and walk the Stations for their swift return.

Every Tuesday morning, we have devotional prayers at the Holy Angels Columbarium at 9:30 AM and then Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM in the church. All are welcome!

Our Christian formation programs are currently on their Fall hiatus. We'll start our Spring module of Christian formation the week of January 12.

Every Thursday morning, we have Morning Prayer (Lauds) in the church at 10:00 AM, followed by Adoration and Confessions until 11:20 AM. At 11:30 AM, we have the holy Rosary. All are welcome!

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?

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@charlestdioocese.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](#).

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:

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.

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.

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

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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