

November 17, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This Sunday, we begin the conclusion of Ordinary Time. Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King, and we're invited to present to him the gift of our discipleship. All the areas of our lives that we've been working on during these past several months of Ordinary Time, we offer to our King and ask for his acceptance and blessing. The high feast day serves as a type of "dress rehearsal" for our particular judgement at the end of our lives. Are we ready?

I'd like to encourage everyone who is preparing to make (or renew) their Consecration to Jesus through Mary to continue to fight the good fight and persevere in your preparation!

I'm happy to announce that after a lot of work and revisions, we're able to launch our new parish website next Sunday, November 24! I think everyone will enjoy the beauty and easily navigable design of the new website!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

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 early December!

In preparation for the Jubilee Year, the Church recently issued new norms for indulgences. [The decree can be found here](#). The Church is extending the time frame for the completion of the various criteria for a plenary indulgence. It appears that we now have 20 days before and 20 days after we do the specific act that has a plenary indulgence attached to then go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the Holy Father!

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

Please note that our Wednesday evening Confessions are also on hiatus until Wednesday, January 15.

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!*

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming Saturday, November 23, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come to this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The abortion facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

In honor of Thanksgiving, the parish campus and church building will close at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, November 27. There are no afternoon Confessions or Adoration. And, other than Confessions and Mass, the campus and church building will be closed on Thursday, November 28. All events and activities are suspended.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, we'll have Confessions from 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM and then Mass at 11:00 AM. Please come and join your parish family as we thank God for his blessings upon our families and nation!

All parishioners and families are invited to join us for Solemn Vespers and our annual Gingerbread Family Fellowship on Saturday, November 30, at 4:00 PM. We'll pray the Psalms together and then decorate our own gingerbread people with all kinds of toppings and candies! All are welcome!

For our 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, December 1, the children of the parish are encouraged to leave their shoes in the hallways. Rumor has it that Saint Nicholas will be visiting during the Mass and filling shoes with candies and sweets! Parents, please put a note in the shoe of any child that has an allergy.

Also, for our 11:00 AM Mass on December 1, families are asked to bring the Christ Child of their home Nativity sets. During the Mass, we'll have a children's homily, and the Christ Child will be blessed. Children will also receive a little Christ Child for their own devotion.

Starting Wednesday, December 4, the parish will start having devotional prayers to Saint Joseph at 9:30 AM. The prayers will be offered at the statue of Saint Joseph inside our parish church. After the devotional prayers, we'll have Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM. All are welcome!

This year, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday of Advent. When this happens, the solemnity is moved to Monday, December 9. For the last

several decades, when this transfer has occurred, the obligation is dispensed. The Church has clarified this practice, however, and has now explained that the obligation is still binding. *And so, the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9, is a Holy Day of Obligation.* Our Mass schedule here will be 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.

Personal Consecrations to Jesus through Mary will be made before each Holy Day Mass on December 9. Please be early to Mass if you plan to make (or renew) your Consecration.

Confessions will be heard after the 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM Mass on the Holy Day.

The 7:00 PM Mass on Monday, December 9, is also our Anniversary Mass as a parish. We'll be eight years old as a parish! After the Mass, we'll have a candlelight procession and crowning of Our Lady's statue at the entrance of our campus. After the crowning, we'll have a fellowship at the statue. All are invited!

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:

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@charlestandiocese.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.*

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 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 months 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](https://twitter.com/fatherkirby)

[Monthly Newsletter](#)

[Weekly spirituality Column](#)