

November 24, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King! The high feast day marks the end of Ordinary Time and of the entire liturgical year. On this solemnity, we are invited to present our discipleship to the Lord Jesus. Where do we stand with him? Have we made sincere efforts to draw closer to him? Now is the time! This is a moment of accountability.

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 very happy to announce that we've launched our new website! Please visit www.gracewepray.org and check it out! Thank you to Ryan Kubic and the staff who worked so diligently to facilitate the design and structure of the new website!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

The parish is happy to host a pilgrimage to the holy places of Saint Augustine, Florida, from January 14-16. [Here's a flyer](#) with more information.

In honor of Thanksgiving, the parish campus and church building will close at 1:00 PM this Wednesday, November 27. There are no Confessions or afternoon Adoration.

Other than Confessions and Mass, the campus and church building will be closed this Thursday, November 28. All events and activities are suspended. *Happy Thanksgiving!*

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

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.

All parishioners and families are invited to join us for Solemn Vespers and our annual Gingerbread Family Fellowship next 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 next 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 next Sunday, 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.*

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](#)
[Monthly Newsletter](#)
[Weekly spirituality Column](#)