

December 22, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we near the end of our Advent preparation. Christmas is drawing close! Are we spiritually ready to welcome the Lord, our Savior?

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Monday, December 23, the campus and building will be closed for staff holidays.

All are invited to come and celebrate the Mass of our Lord's holy Nativity (Christmas)! *It's a time for us to rejoice that God is with us!* As a reminder, Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Christmas Mass schedule is:

- Tuesday, Christmas Eve (December 24) at 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, and 10:00 PM.
- Wednesday, Christmas (December 25) at 10:00 AM.

Please note that Christmas has both a proper Vigil Mass and a Mass of the Day. The Masses on Christmas Eve are not "anticipated" Masses but are celebrations of the proper Vigil of the Holy Day.

The campus and building are closed for staff holidays on Thursday-Friday, December 26-27.

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:

As we celebrate Christmas season, please note the change of hours for our campus and church building. Next weekend, December 28-29, we'll have our regular worship schedule. The campus is closed on Monday-Tuesday, December 30-31. We're open for Masses on Wednesday, January 1, for the Masses of Mary, Mother of God. The campus and building are then closed on Thursday, January 2. On Friday, January 3, we have our regular First Friday schedule, and then we return to a normal

schedule across the board. These holidays allow our staff to celebrate the holy days with their families and enjoy some well-deserved rest.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1, is an opportunity for all of us to start a New Year under Our Lady's protection and guidance. The solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule is January 1 at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM.

Our First Friday and First Saturday observances are January 3-4.

On Saturday, January 4, we have Vespers at 4:00 PM and then our annual Epiphany Stocking Fellowship in the Parish Hall. All people, young and young of heart, are invited to come and pray the psalms and enjoy some holiday candy!

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@charlestondiocese.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.*

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

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)!

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