

December 29, 2024

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Merry Christmas! Yes, for Christian believers, it's still Christmas! We are still within the Christmas Octave, the eight sacred days in which we celebrate the Birth of the Lord Jesus. And so, *Merry Christmas!*

As we near the beginning of a New Year, I encourage you to make resolutions that benefit your discipleship and spiritual life. We are all works in progress and there is always something we can work on!

Thank you to everyone who dropped off gifts and sweets for myself and the staff. Your kindness enriched our celebration of Christmas Day. *Thank you!*

Thank you also to everyone who made contributions toward our Christmas Flowers. As you can see, the flowers around our altar add to the festive nature of the Christmas season! Thank you! [Here is the list of donors and their intentions.](#)

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday-Saturday, January 3-4. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord Jesus and your parish family.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Our parish campus and church building are closed this Monday-Tuesday, December 30-31, for staff holidays. There are no public Masses and all other events are suspended.

This Wednesday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The high feast day 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. Confessions are available after each Mass.

The parish campus and church building are closed this Thursday, January 2, as a staff holiday.

This Friday, January 3, we have our regular First Friday schedule. Our Mass of the Sacred Heart is at 7:00 PM, followed by Confessions until Midnight. Nocturnal

Adoration also follows the Mass and continues until 10:20 AM on Saturday (January 4).

Next Saturday, January 4, we have our First Saturday observances. Confessions are from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM. The Rosary is at 10:30AM. Our monthly Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick is at 11:00 AM, which is followed by our intercessory prayer teams and our parish brunch.

Next 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!

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:

The parish is looking to start a new Building and Grounds Committee. Any parishioner who has skills in contracting, landscaping, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and other related areas, and are interested in serving on our B&G Committee, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandiocese.org.

The Parking Greeters here at our parish are the amazing men and women who direct and facilitate the traffic and safety of our parking areas. It is a true labor of love, and we are all very grateful! As we thank our current Parking Greeters, we realize that they need more friends in the parking lot! And so, I'd like to ask all parishioners, especially those with life experiences that complement this work, to consider serving in this capacity. For more information, please reach out to the Ministry Leader, Pete McCadden: pmcc582@gmail.com.

On Wednesday – Thursday, January 8-9, Father Robert Morey will be visiting the parish and will cover the daily Mass and Confessions. While Father Morey is here, I'll be away leading a workshop for parish leaders in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan.

On Monday, January 13, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the Faith. All are invited to come and pray for the swift return of those who have fallen away.

Please pray for our fellow parishioners who will be away on pilgrimage to Saint Augustine, Florida, from January 14-16. Thank you to Angie Letourneau for organizing this event!

The Spring modules for our Christian formation programs begin the week of January 12. Here's our current line-up:

- Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, the parish Book Club. For more information, please reach out to Deacon Doc Donofrio: bdonofrio@charlestdioocese.org.
- Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:45 AM. Learning the Psalms. For more information, please reach out to Bryan Scibelli: bscibelli@gmail.com.
- Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:10 PM, Great Adventure Bible Study. For more information, please reach out to Charlie Petrizzo: ak9nose@gmail.com.
- Wednesdays, 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM, Adult Bible Study and Formation Programs for young people 12th Grade to 2nd Grade. For more information, please contact Carrie Scibelli: cscibelli@charlestdioocese.org.

There are also other programs that are currently in the planning stages. I hope to be able to announce their launch soon.

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@charlestdioocese.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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Daily Reflections: www.DailyDiscipleship.org

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