

January 5, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Epiphany, Team Grace! Merry Christmas! Yes, we are still celebrating Christmas! We are in the Christmas season and today we honor the Magi of the East who come to adore the Newborn King. The arrival of the Magi is called “the Epiphany,” which means “the manifestation” of the Savior to all the nations. Our Savior has come! Humanity’s Savior has arrived!

Before all the Masses this Sunday, we’ll be showing [the video](#) of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, opening the Holy Doors in Rome and inaugurating the Jubilee of Hope. As Catholic Christians, we are now in a Jubilee, and we are being called to fan into flame the hope of God within us!

As an act of veneration, the Christ Child will be presented at the end of all our Masses this Sunday. The faithful are invited to approach and kiss (or give some other act of homage) to the Christ Child.

Traditionally, all our Christmas decorations are taken down after the celebration of the Epiphany. As we remove decorations, it’s common for the Christian family to bless their home with an Epiphany blessing. As a help in this process, a blessing kit is available in the narthex for all families of the parish.

As we start a new year, all parishioners are encouraged to use our [online service](#) for their tithe. If needed, the collection box is available in the narthex; however, the online service is preferred. I greatly encourage all parishioners to use the online service.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

All parishioners are invited to join us for our weekly prayers for the Faithful Departed at 9:30 AM every Tuesday at the Holy Angels Columbarium. Morning Prayer (Lauds) follows the columbarium prayers and is prayed at 10:00 AM in the church. All are welcome!

Originally, I was going to be away this Wednesday – Thursday, January 8-9, to lead a workshop for parish leaders in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan. Due to a coming blizzard that’s expected to hit the Midwest, the event has been cancelled. And so, I’ll be here at the parish after all!

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@charlestandioocese.org.

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 module 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@charlestandioocese.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, 6:00 – 6:30 PM, evening Confessions.
- 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@charlestandioocese.org.

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

On Sunday, January 19, the parish will have its annual Diaper Drive. All parishioners are asked to bring diapers to Mass with them. The diapers can be dropped off at the

pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands Ministry will be on-site to help you. Let's show our consistent support to mothers and families in need!

On Sunday, January 19, the parish will host two Blood Buses. Please sign-up to give blood! As Christians, we are a pro-life people and giving blood is one of the many things we do to cherish and serve life. Sign-ups are required. [You can sign up here.](#)

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.

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.*

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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Monthly Newsletter