

**January 12, 2025**

***From Father Kirby...***

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today is the formal conclusion of the Christmas Season. While the observance of the early life of the Lord concluded last week with Epiphany, this past week was a celebration of his life leading up to his baptism when he was thirty years old. And so, today we celebrate the holy baptism of the Lord Jesus! By accepting baptism, he was showing us his way of life. Baptism is about dying to ourselves, being born anew in Jesus Christ, and living our lives according to his Gospel.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

*Congratulations to Monty Bennett*, our Coordinator of Sacred Music/Principal Organist. He's been chosen to be a part of a commercial for the Cone Medical Center in Greensboro, NC. He'll be away this coming week on vacation for the recording sessions. Congratulations, Monty!

This 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 this Tuesday – Thursday, January 14-16. Thank you to Angie Letourneau for organizing this event!

The Spring module of our Christian formation programs begin this week! As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord Jesus and recall our own baptism, we are reminded of our call to study and know our Faith! Each of these programs is an opportunity to dive into the beauty and wonder of our Catholic and Apostolic Faith! Please make every effort to participate in at least one of these formation programs.

- Tuesdays, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, our new Mother Drexel Stitch and Chat Group. The group is an opportunity to sew, crochet, cross-stitch, or do some other type of stitching with other Catholic Christians. You can stitch or learn to stitch with other believers. For more information, please reach out to Karen Hanosh: [karenzia57@gmail.com](mailto:karenzia57@gmail.com).
- Tuesdays, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, the parish Book Club. For more information, please reach out to Deacon Doc Donofrio: [bdonofrio@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:bdonofrio@charlestandiocese.org).

- Wednesdays, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, Learning the Psalms. For more information, please reach out to Bryan Scibelli: [bscibelli@gmail.com](mailto:bscibelli@gmail.com).
- Wednesdays, 1:00 PM – 2:10 PM, Great Adventure Bible Study. For more information, please reach out to Charlie Petrizzo: [ak9nose@gmail.com](mailto:ak9nose@gmail.com).
- NB: Wednesdays, 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM, evening Confessions.
- Wednesdays, 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM, Adult Bible Study and Formation Programs for young people 12<sup>th</sup> grade to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. For more information, please contact Carrie Scibelli: [cscibelli@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:cscibelli@charlestandioocese.org).

Next 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 [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 campus and church building will be closed on Monday, January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There is no public Mass. All other events are suspended. May God bless the United States of America!

I'll be away from the parish on Monday – Wednesday, January 20-22, for the annual diocesan Priest Convocation. This year the Bishop is focusing on discipleship and evangelization. There are no public Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21-22. There is still Lauds, our devotions, the Rosary, and Adoration.

On Friday, January 24, the parish is pleased to welcome [JonMarc Grodi](#) of the Coming Home Network. JonMarc is also the host of the EWTN show, [The Journey Home](#). At 6:30 PM, we'll have a Sacred Music Concert. At 7:00 PM, Jon Marc will give a talk on "The Theology of Conversion." A Fellowship and Meet the Speaker will follow the talk. *All are welcome!*

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, January 26, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are greatly encouraged to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion. The abortion facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.*

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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