

**January 19, 2025**

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

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we're back in Ordinary Time, we're asked to evaluate our discipleship and seek ways in which we can be more faithful to the Lord Jesus. Today, he turns water into wine. The Lord can bring about a similar miracle in us, if we allow his grace to change sin into virtue.

This weekend we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and all the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. May God bless our nation with peace, justice, and racial harmony.

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!

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in our Diaper Drive this weekend. We'll bless a portion of the donated diapers at the end of all our Sunday Masses.

Thank you also to everyone who signed-up to participate in our Blood Drive this Sunday. Your gift literally saves lives! Thank you!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As a parish, we try to give out free books during our monthly Nocturnal Adoration and when we have guest speakers come. Various donors help to make these book giveaways possible. If anyone is interested in helping, here are some books that still need a donor:

- *Know Thyself: 100 Guided Meditations on Humility of Heart*. February First Friday. \$1,350.
- *The Agony of Jesus*. March First Friday. \$900.

Please reach out to me directly if you'd like to make one of the above donations: [Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandiocese.org).

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 and no Confessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21-22. There is still Lauds, our devotions, the Rosary, and Adoration.

Our liturgical/devotional schedule for Tuesday, January 21, includes the following: 9:30 AM Prayers at the Columbarium; 10:00 AM Morning Prayer (Lauds); 11:30 AM Holy Rosary; 12:00 PM Saint Peregrine Novena; 12:15 PM – 2:15 PM Adoration; 2:15 PM Benediction.

On Tuesday, our Mother Drexel Stitch and Chat is at 10:30 AM and our parish Book Club is at 1:00 PM. All are welcome!

Our liturgical/devotional schedule for Wednesday, January 22, includes the following: 9:30 AM Saint Joseph Prayers; 10:00 AM Morning Prayer (Lauds); 11:30 AM Holy Rosary; 12:00 PM Saint Dymphna Novena; 12:15 PM – 2:15 PM Adoration; 2:15 PM Benediction.

On Wednesday, our *Learning the Psalms* class is at 10:30 AM and our Great Adventure Bible Study is at 1:00 PM. Our evening Adult Formation class is at 6:30 PM. Our deacon candidate Binh Davis will be giving his testimony and the story of his discernment. All are welcome!

NB: There are no evening Confessions this Wednesday, January 22.

This 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 this coming Saturday, January 25, 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 [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:

Next Sunday, after our 11:00 AM Mass, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday. Please come and join your parish family for donuts and fellowship!

Anyone who has been through an abortion is encouraged to go on a [Rachel's Vineyard Retreat](#). The retreat is focused on healing and restoration. I strongly recommend this retreat. If anyone needs help financially to attend the retreat, the parish will provide whatever assistance is needed.

On Saturday, February 1, at 11:00 AM, Binh Davis from our parish will be ordained a Deacon of the Catholic Church by our Bishop. The ordination is at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist. Parishioners are welcome to attend, although seating is "first come-first serve" and there are no guarantees that seating will be available. The Cathedral is located at 120 Broad Street, Charleston, SC.

On Sunday, February 2, our 11:00 AM Mass will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for Binh Davis' Ordination. All parishioners are encouraged to come to this Mass and witness our new Deacon minister at the altar! A celebratory Fellowship will follow the Mass.

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 person who is in the process of petitioning for Confirmation will need to complete the process no later than *February 9*. If you have any questions, please reach out to Carrie Scibelli at: [cscibelli@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:cscibelli@charlestdiocese.org).

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

Many of you know how much I love Saint Paul and his apostolic writings. I'm overjoyed to host a [pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Paul](#) (Greece and Turkey) this June. I have not been to many of the holy places associated with the Apostle, but I know his writings and their context, and I'm eager to visit these holy places and celebrate Mass there. I'm extending an open invitation to anyone who is able and would like to come on the pilgrimage! Let's walk in the footsteps of Saint Paul together!

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](http://www.DailyDiscipleship.org)

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