

February 16, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time is an opportunity to ask hard questions about our discipleship. It's a blessed time of renewal and recommitment to Jesus Christ. Ordinary Time is about going deeper in our relationship with the Lord. We ask ourselves honestly: How can I do better? Where can I be more faithful and zealous to the Lord?

In observance of Presidents' Day, the parish campus will be closed this Monday, February 17. There is no public Mass. All other events are suspended. May God continue to bless and protect the United States of America!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As a reminder to all our Confirmation candidates, you need to attend one of the two Catechetical Reviews. The reviews are today, Sunday, February 16, from 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM, and next Saturday, February 22, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. There is also a required Liturgy Practice on Sunday, February 23, from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM.

As a reminder, on Thursdays at the parish, we have Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM, followed by Adoration and Confessions until 11:20 AM. Our Women's Faith Study meets from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM. The holy Rosary is at 11:30 AM. Mass is at Noon, followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Following the Chaplet is a Fellowship in the Parish Hall. We pray for our prison teams who visit the local correctional facility on Thursday afternoons.

This coming Friday, February 21, we're happy to welcome [Clement Harrold](#) back to the parish. We'll have a Sacred Music Concert at 6:30 PM. Clement will give a talk on "With Christ in the Desert: Lessons for the Lenten Journey." A Fellowship and Meet-the-Speaker will follow the talk. All are welcome!

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is next Saturday, February 22, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Our next Sunday Fellowship is next Sunday, February 23, around 12:15 PM. All are welcome!

Periodically, parishioners ask me about dedication opportunities in memory of their loved ones. With those requests in mind, I'd like to make everyone aware that the parish currently needs to order a second set of dalmatics and copes in each of the liturgical colors (red, green, violet, and white/gold). If anyone would like to dedicate a dalmatic in the memory of a loved one, the donation is \$1,000. If anyone would like to dedicate a cope in the memory of a loved one, the donation is \$2,000. If you'd like to make a dedication, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org. Requests will be honored on a "first come, first served" basis.

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 Bishop has asked me to attend the Presbyteral Council meeting in Columbia on February 25. While I'm away, we will still have the Columbarium Prayers, Lauds, and Adoration, however, there will be no morning Confessions. Father Bob Morey will be here for Noon Mass and will hear afternoon Confessions. Everything else remains the same.

I'm happy to announce that our Bishop will be visiting the parish on March 1, 2025. The Bishop will offer Mass at 2:00 PM. It is a blessing for us to have our apostle – our Bishop – with us! *All parishioners are strongly encouraged to come, worship, and share holy fellowship with our Bishop!*

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for our Mardi Gras Fellowship on Sunday, March 2, at 12:30 PM. Come and get your piece of King Cake!

The penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Our Masses for the holy day are at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM. *Ashes will only be distributed during Mass.* Confessions will follow the 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM Masses. After the 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have Adoration and Confessions until 4:00 PM. Solemn Vespers will be prayed at 4:00 PM.

In observance of Ash Wednesday, there are no morning, afternoon, or evening formation programs from March 4 - 6.

The parish is pleased to host two Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy from the convent of Saint Faustina in Poland. The Sisters work at the John Paul II Shrine in Washington, DC. They will be coming here to spend a few days with us. The Sisters will meet with different groups in the parish and host a Mercy Retreat on Saturday, March 8, from 1:15 PM – 5:00 PM. The retreat will focus on God’s message of mercy and compassion. The event is free. No registration is needed. *Everyone is invited!*

Please note that Confession on Saturday, March 8, are moved from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Also, there is no Fellowship after Vespers on Saturday, March 8.

From March 5-8, a filming crew from EWTN will be on-site. I’ll be recording a new miniseries entitled, “Our Catholic Way of Life.” The miniseries will talk about the various sacramentals, customs, and traditions of our faith. The filming crew will need to block off some areas of the church, but none of this should cause any serious disruptions to our daily schedule. Thank you in advance for your patience and support!

On Sunday, March 9, everyone is invited to a special Fellowship with the Mercy Sisters around 12:30 PM.

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)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandioocese.org

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Daily Reflections: www.DailyDiscipleship.org

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