

February 23, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Our journey through Ordinary Time continues. It summons us to a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus. Are we trying to be better and more faithful disciples to him?

In the narthex this Sunday, we have sign-ups for our annual Easter Children's Choir. All children of the parish are invited to sign up and be a member of this special choir!

This Sunday, February 23, at 12:30 PM, we have our monthly Fellowship Sunday. All are encouraged to come and join the parish family for donuts and fellowship!

As a reminder to all our Confirmation candidates, we have our Confirmation Practice today, Sunday, February 23, from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM.

I'm happy to announce that our Bishop will be visiting our parish this Saturday, 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!*

Here are some updates on the various large projects on our campus:

- *The Holy Angels Columbarium*: Our columbarium is completely done. We were finishing some lighting and brick work. Those tasks are now done. I pray everyone finds the columbarium to be a place of peace and prayer.
- *Lourdes Hill and Mary's Grotto*: The work on our front hill and grotto has been sporadic due to the weather. With the anticipated good weather this coming month, we are hoping to see more work being done.
- *New Digital Sign*: Our large parish sign along the highway is going digital. This will allow us to highlight current events and reminders. It's our hope to see the work completed within the next week.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

This Tuesday, February 25, our parish Book Club will begin a new book, [The Way of the Heart: Connecting with God Through Prayer, Wisdom, and Silence](#), by Henri Nouwen. All are invited to join the group every Tuesday at 1:00 PM.

The Bishop has asked me to attend the Presbyteral Council meeting in Columbia on Tuesday, February 25. Deacon Doc will lead the Columbarium Prayers, Lauds, and Adoration. Please note, however, that 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.

Due to the Bishop's Mass next Saturday, March 1, there are no Confessions or Vespers that day. Our afternoon office hours, and all other events, are suspended that day except the Bishop's Mass and Fellowship.

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

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 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 be heard after 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.

During this Lent, we are going to slowly reintroduce our Thursday Outdoor Masses at the parish columbarium. *What a blessing it is for us to now offer these Masses at our new Holy Angels Columbarium!* For this Lent, we will have three outdoor Masses. They will be offered on Thursday, March 6, March 13, and April 10. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on. When we have our outdoor Masses, we will also have the Thursday holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and our weekly Fellowship outside at the columbarium.

Please note that on Thursday, March 6, we will have Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM in Rooms 1 and 2 of the Parish Hall. There are no Confessions or Adoration that day.

For Lent, our Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7:00 PM on Mondays. Please come and walk the Stations on March 10, March 17, March 24, March 31, and April 7. Please note there are no Stations of the Cross on April 14, since it's Monday of Holy Week. The Solemn Stations at Noon on Good Friday are the Stations for Holy Week.

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, due to the Mercy Retreat, 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.

For Lent, we're adding two Friday evening Masses. On Friday, March 14, and Friday, March 21, we'll have daily Mass at 5:30 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)!

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Daily Reflections: www.DailyDiscipleship.org

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