

March 2, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we make our way through Ordinary Time, are we using this opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus? Are we seeking every day to be more faithful to him?

What a joy and blessing it was to have our Bishop with us this past Saturday! Thank you to everyone who came to the Mass! Congratulations to our 29 young people who were Confirmed by the Bishop! May the Holy Spirit always inspire you and lead you closer to the Lord Jesus!

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday - Saturday, March 7-8. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and to your parish family.

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

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

New Digital Sign: Our large parish sign along the highway is now complete! I hope you enjoy seeing our new sign along Waxhaw Highway.

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.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

On Tuesday, March 4, we will not have Confessions in the morning. We will have Confessions in the afternoon after Mass.

<p>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. <i>Ashes will only be distributed during Mass.</i> 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.</p>
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As a reminder, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and meat abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of meat abstinence. Good Friday is a day of fasting and meat abstinence. [Here is a full explanation](#) of the Church's practices of fasting and abstinence.

In observance of Ash Wednesday, there are no morning, afternoon, or evening formation programs from March 4 - 6. Parents, please note, we do not have faith formation on Wednesday, March 5.

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!

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 morning.

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.

This Friday, March 7, we have the holy Rosary at 6:30 PM and then our monthly First Friday Mass of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM. Confessions follow the Mass and continue until Midnight.

This Saturday, March 8, we have our monthly First Saturday observances. Confessions are from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM. The holy Rosary is at 10:30 AM, and our Mass of Healing with the Anointing of the Sick is at 11:00 AM. Our intercessory prayer teams and brunch follow the Mass.

<p>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</p>
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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.

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

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 [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:

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.

Last month, we set up a "Welcome Table" in the narthex from Monday – Thursday. Patte Kennedy is our new Narthex Assistant and works at the table. Patte greets people who come for appointments, facilitates the arrival of participants for our daytime programs, helps people who are stopping by to learn more about the Catholic Church or our parish, receives deliveries, and completes other similar tasks and duties. It's a blessing for us to have a warm smile to greet people as they enter our parish church! *Thank you, Patte!*

Periodically, parishioners ask me about dedication opportunities in memory of their loved ones. I wrote a couple of weeks ago about the parish's need for new dalmatics and copes. All of the dalmatics have been donated, along with two of the copes. Currently, we still need a red cope and a violet cope. 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.

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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