

March 9, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We are now within the penitential season of Lent. This is a time in which we go into the spiritual desert and seek to purge and purify whatever is hindering us from drawing closer to the Lord Jesus. I encourage everyone to use this sacred season well.

As we begin Lent, I'd like to highlight some of the Church's ancient customs for this season. Each of these customs are signs to us of our call to penance. The Church clothes herself in penitential violet, the "Gloria" at the beginning of Mass is suspended, the "Alleluia" is not sung or spoken, music is limited and subdued, silence is encouraged, and there are no flowers. Locally, we observe the custom of reducing our altar candles from six to two candles. None of these are empty customs. Each of them serves as a reminder and a summons to us to dive deep and live the Lenten spirit of purgation and purification.

This Sunday, March 9, we are blessed to have two Sisters of Mercy speak at our 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses. Also, this Sunday, everyone is invited to a special Fellowship with the Mercy Sisters around 12:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

We're happy to release our parish's [Semi-Annual Financial Report](#). If any parishioners have questions, please reach out to Ryan Kubic: rkubic@charlestdiocese.org.

For Lent, our Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7:00 PM on Mondays. Please come and walk the Stations this Monday, March 10, as well as 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.

During this Lent, we are slowly reintroducing 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!* The remaining outdoor Masses will be offered this Thursday, March 13, and then on Thursday, 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.

For Lent, we're adding two Friday evening Masses at 5:30 PM. One of the Masses will be this Friday, March 14, and the second Mass will be offered on Friday, March 21.

Next Saturday, March 15, *there are no Confessions*. I'll be away giving a Lenten Day of Recollection to our sister parish, Saint Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville, SC. Solemn Vespers will still be prayed. I'm grateful to Deacon Heath for leading those prayers.

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:

Thank you to all the parishioners who donated dalmatics and copes for the sacred liturgies of the parish! I'm very grateful for your support of the parish!

On March 24 – April 3, I'll be away on a pilgrimage to Rome and the holy places of Italy. While I'm away, Father Colin Blatchford will be at the parish from March 24 – March 30 and Father Robert Morey will be at the parish from March 31 – April 3. *Welcome, Fathers!*

On Friday – Saturday, April 11-12, we're very happy to welcome Dr. John Bergsma to the parish. Dr. Bergsma will give talks on the Old Testament understanding of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The talks are being given right before we start Holy Week. I encourage everyone to participate and to use these talks as a help to enter the Paschal Mystery.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

In the pastoral travels of Saint Paul, he was called by a mystical vision to enter Macedonia. When he obeyed and went to Philippi, he began the evangelization of Europe (Acts 16). After being rejected in Thessalonica and Berea, the Apostle went to Athens, the birthplace of Greek philosophy. In the public square of Athens, the Areopagus, he preached the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 17). On my pilgrimage this June, we'll visit Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and many other cities

and holy places associated with Saint Paul. If you want to dive into the life and legacy of the great Apostle, please consider coming on my Jubilee [pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Paul](#) (Greece and Turkey) this June!

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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