

March 16, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Our Lenten journey of purification continues. Last week, we spoke of metanoia (μετάνοια), which is the personal on-going conversion that we are called to undergo as we seek to draw closer to the Lord Jesus. Today, we will talk about euangelion (εὐαγγέλιον), which is “the good news” of Jesus Christ. It is the basis of the words “evangelist” and “gospel.” We have to remind ourselves that the message of Jesus Christ should always be *good news*!

For those who are interested, Father Dave Pivonka, a noted Franciscan preacher and educator, has a series on FORMED all about metanoia. [Here's the link.](#)

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

As the parish receives donations and gifts for those in need, we issue periodic Charitable Grants. We're happy to do this as a people dedicated to the tithe and to alms! As we observe Lent, I'm happy to announce our most recent grants: \$5,000 went to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy for their apostolic and charitable efforts; \$8,700 was given to the Secular Franciscans in support of their spiritual development and their charitable and catechetical efforts; \$10,000 was given to the SOAP Project, which ministers to victims of human trafficking in our general area; \$5,000 was given to HOPE in Lancaster in support of those in need; \$5,000 was given to the Women's Enrichment Center in support of single mothers or mothers in poverty in our area; and, a grant of \$5,800 is about to be given in support of charitable efforts to the inmates of the Kershaw Correctional Institution. All of the above donations are given from money ear-marked for charitable and apostolic use. We are happy to support these various groups and outreaches!

For Lent, our Stations of the Cross are prayed at 7:00 PM on Mondays. Please come and walk the Stations this Monday, March 17, as well as 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.

For Lent, we've added two Friday evening Masses at 5:30 PM. The second (and last) of these Masses will be this Friday, March 21.

The parish is very pleased to host two Dominican Sisters this coming Friday – Sunday, March 21-23. The Sisters will participate in various events of the parish.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is next Saturday, March 22, at 8:30 AM. The Sisters will be joining us for this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion.

All parishioners are encouraged to come! The abortion facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

All parishioners are invited to come and be a part of an abbreviated Formation Day next Saturday, March 22, from 10:00 AM – Noon. The theme is “The Beauty and Power of Religious Life.” Our visiting Dominican Sisters will be a part of the Formation Day. All are welcome!

On Sunday, March 23, at 12:15 PM, we will have Fellowship with the Dominican Sisters.

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:

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!*

Please note: There are no *morning* Confessions from March 24 - April 3. Confessions will be heard on Monday evenings, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and late afternoon on Saturday.

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 final outdoor Mass for this Lent will be offered 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.

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.

Here's the schedule for Dr. Bergsma's visit:

Friday, April 11:

- 6:30 PM Sacred Music Concert
- 7:00 PM "Holy Thursday through Jewish Eyes"
- 8:00 PM Fellowship and Book Signing

Saturday, April 12:

- 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 AM "Good Friday through Jewish Eyes"
- 10:30 AM Break
- 11:00 AM "Easter though Jewish Eyes"
- 12:00 PM Fellowship and Book Signing

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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