

**April 6, 2025**

***From Father Kirby...***

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! It's good to be home! The pilgrimage was spiritually renewing and uplifting, but there's no place like home. It's very good to be back!

This weekend, we begin Passiontide, the second and most severe part of Lent. Our statues are covered, the bells are suppressed, and our Mass ends in silence. These additional penances are taken on as a preparation for the Sacred Triduum, when we will walk with the Lord Jesus through his Passion and Death.

This weekend, we'll pause our homily series on evangelization so that I can share some spiritual insights from my pilgrimage to the holy places of Italy.

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

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

As a reminder, the Spring module of our Wednesday and other faith formation programs are now on hiatus. Our programs will all resume in September.

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 this 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.

This coming 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 into 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 through Jewish Eyes”
- 12:00 PM Fellowship and Book Signing

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:

Next Sunday, April 13, is Palm Sunday. For the celebration of Palm Sunday, we’ll have our annual Solemn Procession of the Palms at the beginning of our 11:00 AM Mass. All parishioners are invited to come and be a part of this procession as we honor the triumphal entry of the Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. Parishioners are asked to come early, park, and meet around 10:45 AM at the flags near the entrance of our campus.

During our 11:00 AM Mass on Palm Sunday, the homily will be a Children’s Homily. All children are invited!

On Palm Sunday, April 13, we’ll have our annual Spring Festival around 12:30 PM. Come and join us for food, a petting zoo, and games in honor of the Lord’s entry into Jerusalem!

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. Here is the schedule for Monday, April 14 – Easter Sunday, April 20.

### **Holy Week Schedule**

Monday, April 14:

Building and Campus Hours: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM

5:00 PM Holy Rosary  
5:30 PM Daily Mass  
6:15 PM Miraculous Medal Novena  
6:15 PM Adoration and Confessions  
6:55 PM Benediction  
7:00 PM *No Stations of the Cross*

Tuesday, April 15:

Building and Campus Hours: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
9:30 AM Devotional Prayers at the Columbarium  
10:00 AM Morning Prayer (Lauds)  
10:30 AM Adoration; *No Confessions*  
11:30 AM Daily Rosary  
12:00 PM *No Mass; Father Kirby is at the Chrism Mass in Charleston*  
12:00 PM Saint Peregrine Novena  
12:15 PM Adoration; *No Confessions*  
2:15 PM Benediction

Spy Wednesday, April 16:

Building and Campus Hours: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
9:30 AM Devotional Prayers at Saint Joseph Statue  
10:00 AM Morning Prayer (Lauds)  
10:30 AM Confessions  
11:30 AM Daily Rosary  
12:00 PM Daily Mass  
12:45 PM Saint Dymphna Novena  
12:45 PM Adoration and Confessions (until last penitent)  
2:15 PM Benediction

Holy Thursday, April 17:

Building and Campus Hours: 9:30 AM – 11:55 PM  
All events are suspended except evening Mass and observances.  
There is no Noon Mass since Mass will be offered in the evening.  
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper  
8:30 PM Altar of Repose and Adoration (until 11:50 PM)  
8:30 PM Confessions (until 11:50 PM)

Good Friday, April 18:

Building and Campus Hours: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
9:00 AM Confessions (until 2:30 PM)

12:00 PM Solemn Stations of the Cross  
3:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
4:30 PM Confessions (until 8:00 PM)

Holy Saturday, April 19:

Building and Campus Hours: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM  
All events are suspended except evening Mass and observances.  
No Confessions or Solemn Vespers.  
8:30 PM Great Easter Vigil  
10:00 PM Resurrection Party

Easter Sunday, April 20:

7:30 AM Easter Mass  
9:00 AM Easter Mass  
11:00 PM Easter Mass

Please note that the parish campus and building will be closed on Monday – Tuesday, April 21-22. There is no public Mass on these days and all other events are suspended.

Our annual Divine Mercy Service will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM.

Some general announcements for the good of the parish:

In his apostolic journeys, Saint Paul had communities he struggled with and communities he rejoiced over. The Ephesians were especially close to Saint Paul. Saint John the Apostle lived in Ephesus and Our Lady lived in John's house for a portion of time. We think that Ephesus is where Saint Luke – a disciple of Saint Paul - met and “interviewed” Our Lady for his Gospel. During the Jubilee pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Paul, we'll visit Ephesus and Our Lady's house! 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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