

May 11, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Easter, Team Grace! As Christians, we continue to celebrate the Lord's glorious Resurrection. He is Risen! Alleluia!

We pray for our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV! May God grant him wisdom as he assumes the office of Vicar of Christ and Successor of Saint Peter.

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms! We thank you for your selfless love and service to your families! At the end of our Masses this weekend, we're happy to offer a special blessing to all mothers!

This Sunday, May 11, we have our annual May Procession and Crowning of Our Lady at our 11:00 AM Mass. Things will be a little different this year since – due to weather patterns - we're moving the outdoor Crowning to May and the indoor Crowning to December. And so, the Mass on May 11 will begin as usual in the church. After the Mass, there will be a procession to the statue of Our Lady at the entrance of the campus and the crowning of the outdoor statue. After the procession and May Crowning, we'll have Fellowship near the flags. All are welcome to come and honor Our Lady!

I want to congratulate Babette Sabia, who was selected by our Crown Committee to crown Our Lady this year. Babette is involved in countless ministries and outreach efforts in our parish and the broader community. *Congratulations, Babette!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'd like to invite everyone to tune into my 365-Day podcast with EWTN, [*The Mass in Slow Motion*](#). The daily episodes are about 3-4 minutes long. Each episode highlights one aspect of the Mass and can help us all to better know and honor the mystery and power of the Mass.

This Monday, May 12, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Stations of the Cross for those who have left the practice of the Faith. Come and walk the Stations!

Next Saturday, May 17, there will be no Confessions at 3:00 PM. I'll be away giving a Day of Recollection to our sister parish in Blythewood. We will still have Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM.

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 events I'd like to highlight:

Next Sunday, May 18, at 12:30 PM, we'll have a fellowship for my 50th birthday! I can't believe I'm turning 50?! But I look very forward to celebrating my 50th with the parish family!

As an aside, a priest's 50th birthday is the milestone when the Church begins to instruct him to prepare for his retirement (which usually isn't until 70 or 75 years old). When a Religious priest retires (i.e., Franciscans, Jesuits, etc.), he goes back to his Order's Motherhouse. When a diocesan priest retires, we're on our own. With only a small pension, we have to find housing and provide for our expenses. This is why the Church advises priests to start the beginnings of their preparation for retirement when they turn 50. And so, in answer to the inquiries of some, if you want to give a gift – and I expect nothing – please consider a monetary gift toward investments and savings for my priest retirement.

On Saturday, May 24, at 8:30 AM, we have our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility. All parishioners are encouraged to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Monday, May 26, is Memorial Day. As a nation, we pause and remember those who have died in defense of our freedoms. We'll have a Memorial Day Mass at 11:00 AM. A Procession and Blessing of a Memorial Wreath at the Holy Angels Columbarium will follow the Mass. Confessions will be heard before Mass from 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM. After the Mass and Blessing, the campus and church building will be closed in honor of the holiday. All other events are suspended.

Here is the chart of our parish [Pastoral Structure](#).

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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