

August 3, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The journey through Ordinary Time is the journey of discipleship. The season is an opportunity for us to dive deeper and draw closer to the Lord Jesus. What are we doing today to be better followers of the Lord?

Thank you to everyone for the cards and gifts for my priestly anniversary. I'm humbled and grateful for your support and encouragement!

The heat has caused us to pause on our Lourdes Hill and Mary's Grotto. We can't landscape until the heat wave passes. If we planted now, everything we'd plant would die. It's frustrating, but we have to wait for the heat to rescind so that work can pick back up!

In late August, Bishop Jacques will be visiting the Rock Hill Deanery. As a part of that visit, the Bishop will spend *Saturday, August 23*, at our parish. The schedule for the day is still being finalized. Once it's set, I'll announce things to the parish. For now, please SAVE THE DATE on your calendars. It's rare to have the Bishop spend an entire day at a parish. We are very blessed!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Sunday, August 3, we'll have sign-ups for our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir. All girls and young women of the parish are invited to join the choir and serve God and our parish through sacred song.

Starting this Monday, August 4, we will now have the Stations of the Cross *every Monday* at 7:00 PM. The Stations have become a popular devotion, and more people would like to walk and pray them together. *All are welcome!*

Our next Saint Paula Dinner is this Tuesday, August 5, at 5:00 PM. All widows of the parish are invited and encouraged to come for fellowship and formation. I've been asked to speak to the group and will be talking about Our Lady as one of the patronesses of widows. Please remember to bring your copy of the Liturgy of the Hours.

As a reminder, we have weekly Prayers to Saint Joseph on Wednesdays around 10:00 AM and a Novena to Saint Dymphna on Wednesdays around 12:45 PM.

The [calendar for the program year](#) 2025/2026 is now 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, August 10, we have our annual School Supply Drive. The school supplies will go to local schools in need. The schools are asking for three specific items:

1. Clorox cleaning wipes
2. Kleenex tissues
3. Hand sanitizers

Please bring these items with you to church and drop them off at the portico before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be on-site to help you.

Next Sunday, August 10, we'll have our next Blood Drive. All Christians who are able to give blood are strongly asked to show their love for life and sign up to give blood. Giving blood is giving life! There is an urgent shortage of blood in our area. Sign-ups are needed beforehand. [Here's the link](#).

Starting next week, our Devotional Prayers at the Holy Angels Columbarium will be on Mondays at 11:00 AM (and not on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM).

Starting Monday, August 11, we'll have the Devotional Prayers for the Poor Souls and the Rosary at the Holy Angels Columbarium at 11:00 AM. All are welcome!

Also, starting on Monday, August 11, our Monday daily Mass will move back to Noon. We attempted the evening Mass, but it never took off. The Mass will now be at Noon, followed by the Poor Souls Novena, Confessions (until the last penitent) and Adoration until 2:15 PM.

On Monday, August 11, we'll have evening Confessions from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. As Confessions begin, we will pray the Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Vespers in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Adoration until 6:55 PM and then the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM.

Starting Tuesday, August 12, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, I'll be leading a class on "The Basics and Beginnings of Prayer." The class is for everyone but is particularly geared to those who are just beginning to pray. *All are welcome!*

Please note that we are approaching a Holy Day of Obligation. The Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption is Friday, August 15. All the baptized are obliged to participate in the Mass for the solemnity. Our Holy Day schedule is: The proper Vigil of the Assumption, Thursday, August 14, at 7:00 PM. The Holy Day proper, Friday, August 15, at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM. Confessions will follow after each Mass.

Next Sunday, August 17, at 12:30 PM, Deacon Binh Davis will host a Meet-and-Greet for anyone who is interested in learning about the Catholic Church. There is no commitment. The meeting is a casual opportunity to ask any questions about the Catholic Church and to hear about the OCIA process.

As many parishioners know, we are an on-line giving parish. Our weekly collection is mainly received through sustained on-line giving by the members of our parish. I want to encourage all parishioners to switch to on-line giving. [Here's the link](#) for more information.

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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Spiritual Resources: www.DailyDiscipleship.org

[Weekly Spirituality Column](#)

[Monthly Newsletter](#)