From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We are within the great season of Ordinary Time. The season is great because it summons us to evaluate our relationship with the Lord Jesus and invites us to make strong resolutions to grow in our relationship with him.

Later this month, 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. As a part of his visit, he will offer daily Mass for us at 10:30 AM. *All are invited!* After the Mass, the Bishop will bless Mary's Grotto, and we'll have a Parish Festival with food and drinks for everyone. Please mark your calendars and plan on spending this time with our Bishop!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'm happy to announce that the structural work on our Lourdes Hill and Mary's Grotto is now complete! I'm grateful for the work of our landscape architect and contractors. The work is now being entrusted to our regular landscaping services. Once the heat wave passes, they will initiate and surround the grotto with some erosion-control landscaping and beautiful foliage and sod. We are nearing the end of our project! In a very short amount of time, we will be able to visit and pray at our Mary's Grotto.

A quick update on our staff, Ryan Kubic has left our professional staff. We wish him the best as he pursues other endeavors.

Starting this 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).

This 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 this Monday, August 11, our Monday daily Mass will move back to Noon. We attempted to have an evening daily Mass, but it never really took off. And so, the Mass will now be at Noon, followed by the Poor Souls Novena, Confessions (until the last penitent), and Adoration until 2:15 PM.

This Monday, August 11, we will also start having evening Confessions from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. As Confessions begin, we will pray the Miraculous Medal Novena followed by Vespers in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration until 6:55 PM.

As a reminder, we 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!*

Starting this 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!*

The Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption is this 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.

The <u>calendar for the program year</u> 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 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.

Starting Tuesday, August 19, we'll have Vespers with Adoration and Confessions Confession from $6:00 \, \text{PM} - 7:00 \, \text{PM}$. Vespers will be preceded by a Novena to Saint Therese the Little Flower.

On Monday, September 1, the parish will be closed in observance of Labor Day. There is no public Mass, and all other events are suspended. May God bless our work force and keep the United States strong.

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. <u>Here's the link</u> for more information.

As a reminder, our parish staff can be readily reached via email. <u>Here is the staff directory.</u>

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