

**August 17, 2025**

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

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! It is a blessing when the Bishop visits a parish! It's a reflection of the pastoral visits of the apostles to the various communities in the early Church. We read about such powerful apostolic visits in the Acts of the Apostles, and on August 23, we are able to be a part of such a visit when Bishop Jacques visits our parish!

On Saturday, August 23, the Bishop will offer daily Mass for us at 10:30 AM. *All are invited!* After the Mass, the Bishop will bless our Mary's Grotto, and then 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!

This past week was a Holy Day of Obligation. If you purposely missed the Holy Day, then you need to go to sacramental confession as soon as possible.

I'm happy to announce the creation of the Timothy Group, which is a group of high school upperclassmen from our parish who have visited the seminary and are going deeper in their discipleship and discernment of God's will. The group will assist and serve our 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Sunday Masses. The Timothy Group complements the Kolbe Group for all high school young men and our altar boy program for middle school and elementary school boys.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Sunday, August 17, we offer a blessing to all students as they return to school. May God grant them a formative, fun, and safe academic year!

In the narthex this Sunday, August 17, we have sign-ups for our Wednesday Faith Formation for second to twelfth grade. The program starts on September 3 and runs through a ten-week module in the Fall, and then there's a different ten-week module in the Spring. On Wednesdays, our sessions are from 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM (please note the slight change of schedule from last year). *As a reminder*, at least one parent must be present in the adult Bible Study for a young person to be in any formation program.

This 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 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 19, we'll have Vespers with Adoration and Confessions from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Vespers will be preceded by a Novena to Saint Therese the Little Flower.

Every Tuesday, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, I'm 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!*

Our next Prayer Outreach is next Saturday, August 23, at 8:30 AM. The Prayer Outreach this month will be shorter (only two Rosaries), so that everyone can make it to the parish in time for daily Mass. *As of now, the Bishop is planning to come to the Prayer Outreach!* The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC. All are invited to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion.

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:

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.

On Tuesday, September 2, our Mother Drexel Stitch and Chat will pick back up! The group meets from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM. The group is for anyone who is interested in crochet, knitting, or any needlework. All experience levels welcome. For more information, contact Karen Hanosh: [karenzia57@gmail.com](mailto:karenzia57@gmail.com)

On Tuesday, September 2, our new Resurrection Bereavement Group will begin. We'll have a morning session at 10:30 AM and an evening session at 7:00 PM. The group is a Catholic-based ten-week program for adult men and women to prayerfully walk through the grieving process together. For more information, please reach out

to Jackie Greene for the morning session: [jrgreene19@gmail.com](mailto:jrgreene19@gmail.com), or Sue Garera for the evening session: [susangarera@gmail.com](mailto:susangarera@gmail.com).

Starting Wednesday, September 3, from 10:35 AM – 11:45 AM, a new class will be starting up on the early Fathers of our faith. The class is an opportunity to dive into the writings of our early Fathers! The group will use the book, *The Fathers of the Church* by Mike Aquilina. Free copies will be given to participants. The book helps to give an insight into the Church Fathers, the unbroken line of teaching that flows from their witness, and how these early leaders have shaped our Faith. You will be blown away by how much deeper in prayer you'll be able to go after this class! Come out and experience a small taste of the abundant life. For more information, contact Marcus Allen at [ecclesiastestwelve@proton.me](mailto:ecclesiastestwelve@proton.me).

On Thursday, September 4, our Women's Faith Study will start back up! The group meets from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM. This semester, the group will walk through *The Activated Disciple: Taking Your Faith to the Next Level* by Jeff Cavins. This study is aimed at helping believers to go beyond a simple belief and practice of the faith into a radical living it. In this study, we will learn to discern and overcome obstacles that can prevent us from becoming fully committed disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. All women are invited to join the group! For more information, contact Carole King: [carole.king@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:carole.king@charlestandiocese.org).

Starting Monday, September 8, at 1:00 PM, Deacon Doc will resume our parish Book Club. For this module, the group is reading the book, *Real Discipleship: How to Follow Jesus His Way – Not Ours*. All are welcome to be a part of this engaging and fun dive into what it means to follow Jesus Christ. For more information, please reach out to Deacon Doc Donofrio: [bdonofrio@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:bdonofrio@charlestandiocese.org).

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)!

Email: [Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org)

Website: [www.frkirby.com](http://www.frkirby.com)

“X”: @fatherkirby

Spiritual Resources: [www.DailyDiscipleship.org](http://www.DailyDiscipleship.org)

[Weekly Spirituality Column](#)

[Monthly Newsletter](#)