From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time is an opportunity to grow in our discipleship. It's time to ask ourselves hard questions about our relationship with the Lord and make firm resolutions to be more faithful and zealous to him.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Bishop Jacques' visit this weekend. It was a great blessing to have the Bishop here! May God continue to bless our Bishop and his apostolic ministry in South Carolina.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'd like to welcome Sandy Petrizzo back to our parish staff. Sandy comes on-board as our new Collection Coordinator/Safe Environment Coordinator. As the Counting Coordinator, Sandy supervises the counting process and posting of our Sunday collection. As the Safe Environment Coordinator, Sandy facilitates the background screening and approval process for volunteers and collaborates in other ways to ensure a safe environment for children and other vulnerable people. *Welcome back, Sandy!*

In the narthex this Sunday, August 24, 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.

As a reminder, we now have the Stations of the Cross every Monday at 7:00 PM. Come and walk the sorrowful way with the Lord Jesus. *All are welcome!*

Starting this Wednesday, August 27, we'll have Vespers with Adoration and Confessions from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Vespers will be preceded by a Novena to Saint Francis of Assisi. All are welcome!

This Thursday, August 28, several of our fellow parishioners are heading out on pilgrimage to the holy places of Washington, DC, and other sites. We wish them a

safe and fruitful journey. We look forward to sharing in the graces of their pilgrimage when they return home!

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:

I'd like to ask any members of our parish who are familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous to please reach out to me. I'd like to identify a few parishioners who can help us to launch an AA group at the parish. Please email me directly: <u>Jeffrey.kirby@charlestondiocese.org</u>.

Next 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 MJ Wallace: mjwallace@charlestondiocese.org.

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, or Sue Garera for the evening session: susangarera@gmail.com.

Starting Wednesday, September 3, from 10:30 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.

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@charlestondiocese.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, <u>Real Discipleship: How to Follow Jesus His Way – Not Ours</u>. 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@charlestondiocese.org.

Starting Wednesday, September 10, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, we're launching a new monthly program for small children and stay-home parents. Entitled, "Eucharistic Kids!," the program consists of Adoration and playtime. All small children and their parents are invited! For more information, please email Rachael Kanetzke: rachael.kanetzke@gmail.com.

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. <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: <u>www.DailyDiscipleship.org</u>

Weekly Spirituality Column

Monthly Newsletter