

September 14, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This Sunday, Mother Church suspends Ordinary Time and observes the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We are invited to pause and exalt in the cross of the Lord Jesus by which humanity has been redeemed. We are called to embrace the cross and work out our salvation in the Lord.

This weekend, we continue to observe Patriot Day and pray for those whose lives were violently taken in the terrorist attacks of 9/11. *May they rest in peace.* We ask God to bless and protect the United States of America. Our campus flags are half-mast and our recessional hymn today will be a patriotic hymn.

Thank you to the Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir for leading us in sacred music at our 11:00 AM Mass this Sunday. The choir was missed during their summer hiatus. *Welcome back!*

This Sunday in the narthex we have sign-ups for some of the critical ministries in the daily functioning of the parish. We need more people to be a part of Our Lady's Helpers, Helping Hands, Parking Greeters, and Collection Counters/Hall Monitors. Our Lady's Helpers clean and take care of the church and its sacred objects on a rotating basis. Helping Hands is a fluid ministry that assists with various parish projects and needs. Our Parking Greeters are men of the parish who facilitate parking and the orderliness of our parking areas. The Collection Counters and Hall Monitors count and facilitate the process for the Sunday collection.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This week, we're issuing our parish's [Annual Financial Report and Budget](#). If anyone has any questions, please email me directly: jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org.

Congratulations to Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Music, who was recently featured in a commercial for a local cancer hospital. [Here's the link](#). Bravo, Monty!

We currently have a few Sundays in October that need flower donations. Please consider donating the sanctuary flowers for an intention that is close to your heart. For more information, please visit the front desk in our Reception Area.

The work on the handrails at Mary's Grotto is about to start. Once the handrails are secure and inspected, we can open the Grotto for visits. It is my great hope to move this process along and open Mary's Grotto as soon as possible!

Starting this Thursday, September 18, we will start to pray devotional prayers to Saint Josephine Bakhita at 10:00 AM (directly before Morning Prayer-Lauds). We pray for Saint Josephine's intercession to heal the victims of human trafficking and to end this evil practice in our society!

Also starting this Thursday, September 18, our daily Masses on Thursdays will be in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. If there is no assigned saint's day, we will celebrate the Votive Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist. Our Requiem Masses will now move to Mondays (starting September 22). The change is occurring as a part of our overall process to align our devotions to the formal devotions of the Church (i.e., Mondays are for the poor souls in purgatory and Thursdays are in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, etc.).

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 Tuesday, September 23, we will celebrate the feast day of Saint Padre Pio. As a part of the celebration, we will have the veneration of his relic at the end of Mass. All are invited to come and honor this great saint.

Due to the veneration of Padre Pio's relic, we will not have the Saint Peregrine Novena after Mass on September 23.

On Wednesday, September 24, I'll be in the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, giving the Bishop's Lecture on the teachings and on-going legacy of the Second Vatican Council. I'm grateful for Bishop Frank Caggiano for this invitation.

While I'm away, Fr. Peter Rusciolelli will offer our daily Noon Mass on Wednesday, September 24. Father Rusciolelli has also agreed to stay after Mass to hear Confessions. Please note that our only Confessions on September 24 will be at 12:45 PM. There are no morning or evening Confessions that day. Many of us remember Father Rusciolelli as he visited the parish throughout his time in the seminary. It's a blessing to have him back at the parish!

For our adult faith formation on Wednesday evening, September 24, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Monty Bennett will give a presentation on the Catholic funeral and our pre-planning program here at the parish. He will answer any specific questions about our funeral rites and customs.

On Tuesday, September 30, we'll have two parish Town Hall meetings. The two sessions will be at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. During the Town Hall, we'll review the parish's master plan and answer any questions. All parishioners are invited to come and voice their questions, ideas, concerns, and hopes.

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: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.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)!

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Spiritual Resources:

[Weekly Spirituality Column](#)

[Monthly Newsletter](#)