

September 21, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! During this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, we are asked to evaluate our relationship with Jesus Christ and to make resolutions to be more faithful to him. Where is our discipleship? How can we do better?

Some things happening at the parish this week:

The contract for the handrails at Mary's Grotto has hit some snags. It's my hope that the contract will be reconciled and that we can see the handrails going up soon! Once the handrails are secure and inspected, we can open the Grotto for visits.

This Tuesday, September 23, we 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 our Noon 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.

This Tuesday evening, September 23, at 7:00 PM, Deacon Tom Heath is guest presenting at our weekly *Basics and Beginnings of Prayer* class. The deacon will explore the Liturgy of the Hours, and how these formal prayers of the Church can help us in our mental/meditative prayer. All are welcome!

This 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 this Wednesday, September 24. Father Rusciolelli has also agreed to stay after Mass to hear Confessions. 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!

Please note that our only Confessions on Wednesday, September 24 will be at 12:45 PM. There are no morning or evening Confessions that day.

For our adult faith formation this Wednesday evening, September 24, from 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM, our Director of Sacred Music and parish Funeral Coordinator, 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. A representative from Heritage Funeral Homes will also be on-site to answer any questions you might have on general funeral arrangements.

This coming Saturday, September 27, at 8:30 AM, we have our monthly Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility. All parishioners are invited to be a part of this peaceful, prayerful protest in opposition to the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

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 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.

On Sunday, October 5, we'll have our annual Rosary Procession at the beginning of the 11:00 AM Mass. Parishioners are asked to come around 10:45 AM and meet near the flags at the entrance of our campus. *All parishioners are encouraged to come and honor Our Lady and her holy Rosary!*

On Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 AM – Noon, we have one of our periodic Formation Days. The theme of this Formation Day is "The Other Apostolic Letters: Exploring the Seven Universal Letters of the New Testament." As a parish, we're focusing on the fourteen letters of Saint Paul in the sacred liturgy. This Formation Day will provide an opportunity to learn about the other seven apostolic letters.

On Sunday, October 12, the parish will once again sponsor two blood buses. As Christians, giving blood is one of the many ways we cherish and serve life. Please sign up to give blood! [Here is the link for sign-ups](#). Prior sign-ups are required.

On Sunday, October 12, the parish is also hosting one of its annual Food Drives. The parish is collecting three specific items: canned corn; canned peas; and Chef Boyardee pasta (not spaghetti or lasagna). Parishioners are asked to bring these items

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

On Saturday morning, October 18, from 9:00 – 12:00 PM, we'll have our first meeting of the Saint Joseph Men's Fellowship. This newly formed group has been established specifically for the men of the parish who have a desire to grow in faith through prayer, insightful lectures and discussions, male fellowship, and some good food and fun. All men of the parish are invited! For more information, please reach out to Pete McCadden at pmcc582@gmail.com.

This May, I'll be hosting a five-day pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Honestly, the shrine was not on my short list of places to visit, but I had a strong movement in prayer that has summoned me to go and visit the Patroness of the Americas. I look forward to offering Mass at the shrine, as well as to visiting the other holy places in the area, especially those associated with the [Cristero martyrs](#). Everyone is invited! [Here is 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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