

October 5, 2025

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! During Ordinary Time we are invited and challenged to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in all we say and do.

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary of Our Lady. All believers are encouraged to pray the Rosary! As a reminder, the holy Rosary is prayed publicly here at the parish on Mondays at 11:00 AM at the Holy Angels Columbarium and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 11:30 AM in the church.

This 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!*

Also, this Sunday, October 5, at 2:00 PM, we'll have our annual Blessing of Pets in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. All parishioners are invited to bring their pets to the pavilion for the blessing. All pets – however large or small – are invited (including cats)! Ice creams will be served after the blessing.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our parish Town Hall meetings this past week! For those who couldn't come, the content of the Town Halls will be posted on our parish website in the coming week.

I'm very happy to welcome Brock Conner to the professional staff as our new Parish Comptroller! Brock is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with extensive experience in accounting and business management. As the Parish Comptroller, Brock will facilitate our bookkeeping, budgeting, contracts, quarterly and other reports to the diocese, human resources, and all other area relating to our parish finances and business operations. *Welcome, Brock!*

The contract for the handrails at Mary's Grotto has been approved and signed. *Our contractors will begin work on the handrails before the end of the month.* Once the handrails are secure and inspected, we can open up the Grotto for visits!

This Monday evening, October 6, at 7:00 PM, the parish will initiate its new monthly Peregrine Cancer Support Group. The group is for all parishioners who are fighting cancer or are in remission. The group is a faith-based, sacred place for prayer and open conversation about the struggles and fears of fighting cancer. I'm grateful to Marta Pereda and Diane Corbitt, two nurses in the parish, who will facilitate the group. For more information, please email: stperegrinesg25@outlook.com.

This Tuesday, October 7, at 5:00 PM, we have our next Saint Paula Dinner for Widows. Deacon Heath will be talking with the group. All widows of the parish are invited to come and join in this opportunity for fellowship and friendship. Please be sure to bring your copy of the Liturgy of the Hours.

This Wednesday, October 8, at 10:30 AM we have the next gathering of our Eucharistic Kids! This is a monthly opportunity for small children and stay-home parents to adore the Eucharistic Lord and share in some playtime. All small children and their parents are invited! For more information, please email Rachael Kanetzke: rachael.kanetzke@gmail.com.

Starting this Thursday, October 9, we will have a weekly Devotional to Padre Pio and the Blessed Sacrament at 10:00 AM (before Lauds). The Prayers to Saint Josephine Bakhita will be moved to after the Mass (around 12:45 PM). The Divine Mercy Chaplet is suspended for now but will be rescheduled to a different time very soon.

This coming 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.

Next 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.

Also, next Sunday, October 12, the parish is 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.

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, October 13, we'll have our seasonal Pastoral Care Training for our homebound and care facility Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and their Pastoral Companions. I look forward to my time with this great group of men and women.

On Thursday, October 16, from 10:30 AM – 11:45AM, we will have the first meeting of our monthly Gianna Caregiver Support Group. The group is for spouses who provide direct care or who manage care for their spouse and adult children or other family members who are full time, part-time (or in any way involved) in providing care support to an aging parent(s) or relative. The group is a faith-based, sacred place, for prayer, open conversation and encouragement. It will be facilitated by parishioner Ellen Belk, who founded and runs [Keep in Mind](#), which provides dementia expertise, education, and advising. For more information on the Gianna Group, please reach out to Ellen at: keepinmindinc@gmail.com.

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.

As we near the observance of All Souls Day, November 2, I'd like to clarify some of our Catholic customs:

- The All Souls envelopes are for you to formally ask your local pastor to prayerfully remember your beloved dead through the next year. It is very important that you write the names of your loved ones on the envelopes. The names can be anyone who has died at any time. Please note: the All Souls collection goes directly to the priest. This is the only time in which collected funds go directly to the priest. However, checks should still be made out to the parish. *Please do not make any checks payable to me.* The parish will issue me a check on your behalf.

- The Book of the Dead will be placed by the baptismal font on October 31. Any and all of your beloved dead can be written in the book. It does not matter when your loved ones passed away. Anyone can be written in the book.
- The Reading of Names at our 11:00 AM Mass on All Souls is only for those who have died within the past liturgical year (November 2, 2024 – November 1, 2025). Please send your names to Noah Rusciolelli, our Liturgy Coordinator: [nruscolelli@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:nrusciolelli@charlestandiocese.org).

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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