

**February 1, 2026**

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

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we journey through Ordinary Time, we are invited and summoned to re-commit ourselves to the Lord Jesus. This is the liturgical season dedicated to discipleship. Are we seeking to go deeper and to be more faithful in our relationship with the Lord? What more is the Lord asking of us?

As with last week, our Mass schedule will remain the same, but only come to Mass if you feel safe. There is a dispensation in place for anyone who cannot safely come to Mass.

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday – Saturday, February 6-7. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord Jesus and our parish family.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Tomorrow, Monday, February 2, our daily Mass will be at 5:15 PM (not 12 Noon). We'll be celebrating Candlemas of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus. Yes, it has been 40 days since Christmas! The image of the Christ Child in front of the ambo has reminded us of this sacred time between Christmas and the Presentation. The Christ Child is hailed in the Temple by the holy man Simeon as “the light of the nations.” And so, in celebration, the Church blesses candles that will be used throughout the coming year (hence, the name *Candlemas*). All parishioners are invited to come to the Mass and bring candles with them that will be used for sacred purposes in their home.

*Parishioners who participate in our morning programs are invited to be a part of Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM. Parishioners who participate in our evening programs are encouraged to be a part of Evening Prayer (Vespers) and/or Adoration from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM.*

Tomorrow evening, Monday, February 2, at 7:00 PM, we have our monthly Peregrine Cancer Support Group. If you are fighting cancer, or are in remission, this group is for you. The group is a faith-based opportunity to speak openly and receive encouragement and support.

This Tuesday, February 3, at our Noon Mass, we'll be offering the Blessing of Throats in honor of Saint Blaise. All are invited to come and receive the saint's intercession for good health.

This Tuesday, February 3, at 1:00 PM, we have our next gathering of the Saint Paula Dinner for Widows. All widows of the parish are invited and encouraged to come! The gathering is a great opportunity to share fellowship and make new friends!

This Friday, February 6, at 7:00 PM, we have our First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. The holy Rosary is prayed before the Mass at 6:30 PM. Confessions are heard after the Mass until Midnight. Adoration begins after the Mass and continues through the night until 10:20 AM on Saturday.

This Saturday morning, February 7, is First Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our First Saturday observances include: Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM; the holy Rosary at 10:30 AM; the Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM; and our intercessory prayer teams and monthly Parish Brunch after the Healing Mass. All are welcome!

[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, February 16, our nation celebrates Presidents' Day. In honor of the holiday, the parish campus and church will be closed. There is no public Mass. All other events are suspended.

The sacred season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Ashes will only be distributed during Mass. Our Masses are at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM. Confessions and Adoration are from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 PM. Public Vespers will be prayed at 4:00 PM.

As Lent approaches, I'd like to announce some modifications and additions to our parish schedule:

- For Lent, our Monday Noon Masses will be outside at the Holy Angels Columbarium. These will be Masses in honor of the Faithful Departed. Parishioners are invited to come and bring a chair or blanket with them. If

there is inclement weather, or temperatures under 55 degrees, then the Mass will be moved indoors.

- We will have some additional Masses on Friday evenings at 5:30 PM. The Masses will be on February 20, February 27, March 13 and March 20. *Please note that the Mass on March 6 will still be a First Friday Mass at 7:00 PM.*
- Our Stations of the Cross will be on Mondays at 7:00 PM (as they are all throughout the year).

Good news abounds, Team Grace! Gifts continue to come in toward the \$485,000 we need for Phase Two of Mary's Grotto. As of this weekend, we now have **\$260,000!** In addition, a couple of large gifts are also being processed. I look very forward to announcing those gifts in the coming weeks! As a reminder, Phase Two will enlarge the size of the Grotto, extend its height, and add a large patio area with an outdoor altar in front of the Grotto. We will not run a capital campaign but will continue to rely on Our Lady's children to provide the resources we need to deepen our public veneration of her. *Please help us honor Our Lady!* Please make *your contribution* by donating to the Capital Projects fund, either on-line or through the envelopes on the first Sunday of every month.

I'm very happy to announce that two Dominican Sisters will be joining my five-day pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe this coming May. The presence of the Sisters will be a tremendous blessing for all the pilgrims! 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)!

In Christ,

Father Jeffrey Kirby

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