

January 18, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We are now back in Ordinary Time. This is the season of discipleship. Mother Church echoes the call of the Lord Jesus: “Come, follow me!” How can we be more faithful disciples? What more is the Lord Jesus asking of us?

Congratulations to Aiden and Emily who were married at our parish this Saturday morning. May God bless their union and fill them with joy and happiness!

Congratulations to MJ, Pete, Nick, John Paul, Sue, Mario, Gina, Regina, Paulette, and Amalia from our parish. This weekend, each of them were commissioned by our Bishop for greater service in evangelization. We pray for them and their service to the Gospel!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Diaper Drive this Sunday. All of the donated diapers will go to families right here in Lancaster County.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to give blood. Your donation is literally saving lives.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

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.

This Monday, January 19, the parish campus and church will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There is no public Mass. All events are suspended. May God continue to bless and protect the United States of America.

This Tuesday-Wednesday, January 20-21, I’ll be away on the annual diocesan Priest Convocation. We have two guest priests lined up for daily Mass and afternoon Confessions (12:45 PM – last penitent). *The only change to our daily parish schedule is that there will be no Confessions in the morning and evening.* Everything else remains the same.

Our ten-week formation module for the Spring is currently in session. Every Wednesday, from 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM, the parish family is gathered together for Christian formation. This includes the formation program for children in 2nd – 8th grade, our high school program (who are now with the adults), and the adult formation program on the Book of Exodus.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming Saturday, January 24, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are encouraged to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horrors 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:

In the life of the Church, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is on January 25 this year) is now Word of God Sunday. It's a new observance that's meant to highlight the importance of reading and studying the Bible. In celebration of the Word of God, we'll have our new annual Blessing of Lectors at our 11:00 AM Mass next Sunday. All the men and women who proclaim God's Word to us will be honored and blessed for the coming year.

Our next Fellowship Sunday is Sunday, January 25, at 12:15 PM. All parishioners are invited to come for fellowship and donuts!

Our next SOAP Work Group is Tuesday evening, January 27, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

I have great news, 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 **\$200,000!** 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.

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)!

In Christ,

Father Jeffrey Kirby

Very Rev. Jeffrey F. Kirby, STD, VF
Pastor/Dean of Rock Hill Deanery
www.frkirby.com