

**January 25, 2026**

*From Father Kirby...*

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we continue through Ordinary Time, we are invited to go deeper in our relationship with the Lord Jesus. What more is the Lord asking of us? What needs to be surrendered to him?

In the life of the Church, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is on January 25 this year) is now called 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 this Sunday. All the men and women who proclaim God's Word to us will be honored and blessed for the coming year.

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for the Children's Easter Choir. This is a great opportunity for children and young people to serve the Lord and the parish family.

Due to the weather, we are suspending our Fellowship Sunday.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Recently, the parish sent out our tax letters for charitable giving. Thank you to everyone who honored the tithe and generously gave to the parish this past year. If there are any questions about your letter, please reach out to our Finance Assistant, Sandy Petrizzo at [spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:spetrizzo@charlestandiocese.org).

As a parish family, we always seek to be as generous as possible. In addition to our Sunday tithe, we also periodically give charitable grants. The grant money is taken from reserved funds that are used only for charitable purposes. In the coming week, the parish will give the following grants: \$10,000 to our sister parish, [Saint Catherine's in Lancaster](#), in support of the work among our Spanish-speaking Catholics; \$5,000 to [HOPE in Lancaster](#), which is our local social outreach center; \$5,000 to [Sheltered in Lancaster](#), which provides a warm shower, food, and clothing to those in need; and \$10,000 to [Saint Anne's School](#), which is our only Catholic School in the Rock Hill Deanery. We ask for God's blessings upon our efforts to serve him!

*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.*

Every Monday morning at 11:00 AM, we have the holy Rosary at the Holy Angels Columbarium. All are welcome!

Every Monday evening at 7:00 PM, we have the Stations of the Cross. Everyone is invited to come and walk with the Lord Jesus in his sorrowful way.

Due to a lack of response, we are suspending our evening Resurrection Bereavement Group. We will now only have the morning group at 10:30 AM.

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

This coming Saturday, January 31, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, we have one of our periodic Formation Days. The theme of the day is: *Our Lenten Journey of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*. 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:

God is good, 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 **\$210,000!** 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.

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

Very Rev. Jeffrey F. Kirby, STD, VF  
Pastor/Dean of Rock Hill Deanery  
[www.frkirby.com](http://www.frkirby.com)