

**February 8, 2026**

*From Father Kirby...*

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We only have a couple of weeks left of Ordinary Time. I pray we're all using this time to draw closer to the Lord Jesus and deepen in our discipleship. What is the Lord asking of us? How can we be more faithful to him?

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for the Easter Children's Choir. All children of the parish are invited to join and be a part of this opportunity to serve the Lord and our parish family through sacred song.

Starting this past First Friday and First Saturday, we'll have a display table in the narthex *every first weekend* that highlights the foreign missions of the universal Church. Along with the display, there are free copies of *Mission*, which is the official magazine of the Propagation of the Faith (which supervises the foreign missions).

In addition, there will be "Mite Boxes" on the display table. The name comes from the story of the Widow's Mite in the Gospel. The Mite Boxes are a way for us to collect donations throughout the coming month. All of the donated funds will go to children in our foreign missions. Instructions for mailing the donations at the end of the month are printed on each box. The donations do not come to the parish, but are sent to the respective apostolic society. The Mite Boxes are on flat card stock and so parishioners will need to fold and assemble their box.

Please use the above opportunities to learn about our missionaries and foreign missions.

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 Tuesday evening, February 10, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, we have our next session of the SOAP Work Group. The group labels soap that will be distributed in places frequented by people in human trafficking. The label can be taken from the soap and used later to reach out for help. We are honored to work with [The SOAP Project](#) in this effort.

This Wednesday morning, February 11, at 10:30 AM, we have our next gathering of the Eucharistic Kids! All small children and stay-home parents are invited to come for Eucharistic Adoration in the church and then playtime in the Parish Hall.

This Thursday, February 12, I'll be away for deanery meetings. I was not able to find a guest priest and so our daily Mass will be offered at 9:15 AM (before I have to leave for my meetings). Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Adoration will still be held at their regular times. There are no morning Confessions. The holy Rosary will be prayed at 11:30 AM. The Saint Josephine Bakhita Novena will be prayed at Noon. There is no Fellowship afterwards.

This Saturday, February 14, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon, we have one of our periodic Formation Days. The theme for this Formation Day is *The Lord's Healing Touch: Understanding Confession and the Anointing of the Sick*. All are welcome!

Next Saturday evening, February 14, at 4:00 PM, we have Solemn Vespers and then a Mardi Gras Fellowship! Everyone is invited to come as we prepare to start Lent!

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).

The parish is very happy to host the annual [Catholic Men's Conference of the Carolinas](#) on Saturday, March 14. All men of the parish are invited to attend. Since the conference is an autonomous event, men will need to register and pay the conference fee. If any parishioner needs financial assistance, please reach out to me directly: [Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.org).

Thanks be to God! 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 **\$265,000!** In addition, a couple of large gifts are also being processed. I very much look 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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