

February 15, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We are nearing the end of Ordinary Time. The Church has called us to draw closer to the Lord Jesus. This Wednesday, we move from Ordinary Time to Lent. The season of Lent calls us to conversion and purification. What is holding us back from surrendering our entire lives to the Lord Jesus?

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for some of our central ministries. These are the ministries that help the parish to run, and we need more help! The sign-ups include Nursery Helpers, Hospitality, Collection Counters, Parking Greeters, and Helping Hands.

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, 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 (this includes our evening Alcoholics Anonymous).

The sacred season of Lent begins this Wednesday, February 18. For Ash Wednesday, 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. All other events are suspended.

As a reminder, Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and meat abstinence. The fast includes one medium-sized meal and two small meals (that cannot exceed the size of the medium-sized meal). No snacks in between meals! And for me, that's always the killer, since I enjoy eating snacks throughout the day! Here are the [guidelines](#) of the US Bishops.

During our Masses this Lent, I will be preceding the English "Lamb of God" with its Latin equivalent. And so, in the Communion Rite, after we've sung the Agnus Dei, I'll turn and say in Latin: "Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccata mundi. Beati qui ad cenam Agni vocati sunt." This will be followed by the English:

“Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world...”. And your response will still be in English, “Lord, I am not worthy...”. This addition of the Latin version will help us to hear and appreciate the sacred language of our forebears.

On Thursday, February 19, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, we’ll have the next meeting of our Gianna Caregiver Support Group. If you are a primary caregiver or if you manage the care of an adult loved one, this group is for you. The group is a faith-based opportunity to come together for fellowship and mutual encouragement.

This Friday, February 20, starts our Lenten Fridays of meat abstinence. As an ancient Christian custom, no meat is to be eaten in honor of our Lord’s sacred flesh which was crucified on a Friday.

Starting this Friday, February 20, at 5:30 PM, we’ll start our extra Masses on the Fridays of Lent. The Masses will be offered 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.*

On Saturday, February 21, there will be no Confessions. I’ll be away giving a Day of Recollection to our sister parish in Goose Creek, South Carolina. We will still have Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM.

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:

As we move forward, I’d like for us to extend our Tuesday afternoon Adoration time to 3:15 PM and have the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed publicly at 3:00 PM. In order for this to happen, we need people to sign up to lead the chaplet. I’ve asked Jeanne Pyke to lead the effort to find people and organize a rotating schedule. If you’re interested in helping to lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet, please reach out to Jeanne at jeanne@thepykes.com.

For Lent, our Monday Noon Masses will be outside at the Holy Angels Columbarium. This begins next Monday, February 23. 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.

On Sunday, March 8, we will celebrate Mental Health Awareness Sunday. The homily that Sunday will focus on mental health. After the 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have various local mental health organizations and outreaches in the Parish Hall. Parishioners are encouraged to walk through the different booths and learn about local resources. It's important as Christians that we know what resources are available so that we can find help for ourselves when needed and/or be a resource for others when they need help. In addition, we'll have hot dogs, ice cream, and other desserts in the hall. All are welcome!

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 anyone parishioner needs financial assistance, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org.

God continues to bless us, 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 **\$280,000!** In addition, a couple of large gifts are also being processed. I 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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