

February 22, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Lent is all about purification and conversion. We go into the spiritual desert with the Lord Jesus and we ask that his grace convert and transform us. What work does the Lord want to do in your life? Are you willing to let him work?

For Lent, you will notice that Mother Church clothes herself in penitential violet, diminishes the use of the organ, suspends the *Gloria*, stops any use of flowers, and pauses any public use of the festive word, *Alleluia*. In addition, here at the parish we limit ourselves to two altar candles (rather than six). All of these customs are meant to express to us the penitential nature of the Lenten season.

This year, as a parish family, we will also sing the *Kyrie* and the *Agnus Dei* a cappella. We will also have the singing of the Offertory Antiphon during the Offertory. Please do not attempt to sing along. It is a verse sung solely by a cantor. I pray these additional practices will help us to see the stark nature of the Lenten desert and draw closer to the Lord Jesus.

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.

For Lent, our Monday Noon Masses will be outside at the Holy Angels Columbarium. The outdoor Masses begin this Monday, February 23. These Masses will be offered 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.

As a reminder, the Stations of the Cross are prayed every Monday evening at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

This Tuesday, February 24, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, we have our next Work Group for [SOAP](#). Parishioners are invited to come and label soap that will be placed in

areas frequented by victims of human trafficking. The labels can be taken and used to reach out for help. All are welcome!

This Friday, February 27, at 5:30 PM, we have one of our extra Masses on the Fridays of Lent. The Masses will be offered 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.*

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.

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.

On Sunday, March 8, we’ll 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 any parishioner needs financial assistance, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.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 online or through the envelopes on the first Sunday of every month.

LAST CALL! I am happy to further announce that in addition to two Dominican Sisters, there will be *six Franciscan Sisters* 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 very much 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](#). If you're able, please consider coming on the pilgrimage! *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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