

**March 1, 2026**

***From Father Kirby...***

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Lent continues, and we are called to be with the Lord Jesus in the desert. The desert is a place of purification. It changes us. This Lent, welcome the graces of conversion in your heart. It's time to change and grow in the Lord!

This Sunday, we have sign-ups in the narthex for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday – Saturday, March 6-7. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and our parish family.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir is taking the Works of Mercy seriously and going on the road! The choir is starting a tour of the local care facilities, where they'll sing and serenade the residents and staff of the different locations. *Thank you, young women!*

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, we will continue to attempt to have our Monday Noon Masses outside at the Holy Angels Columbarium. The Masses are 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.

This Monday, March 2, I'll be attending a meeting of the Lancaster County Mental Health Task Force. I've recently joined the task force and look forward to seeing how our parish can partner and collaborate with local efforts.

While I'm at the county meeting, we welcome Father Chukwunonso Nnebe-Agumadu to the parish. Father Chukwunonso is from the Diocese of Charlotte. He will offer our Noon Mass and hear our afternoon Confessions. *Welcome, Father!*

On Monday evening, March 2, at 7:00 PM, we have the next gathering of our local Peregrine Cancer Support Group. If you're currently fighting cancer or are in remission, this group is for you!

As a reminder, we have the Stations of the Cross every Monday at 7:00 PM.

This Friday, March 6, at 7:00 PM, we have our First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. *Please note the Mass is at 7:00 PM (not 5:30 PM).* The holy Rosary is prayed before the Mass at 6:30 PM. Confessions are heard after the Mass until Midnight. Adoration begins after the Mass and continues through the night until 10:20 AM on Saturday.

For this First Friday, we welcome Father Peter O'Steen of our diocese. Father O'Steen is one of our newly ordained priests. He currently serves as the parochial vicar of Saint Joseph's in Columbia. Father will offer the Sacred Heart Mass and hear Confessions through the night. *Welcome, Father!*

This Saturday morning, March 7, is First Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our First Saturday observances include: Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM; the holy Rosary at 10:30 AM; the Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM; and our intercessory prayer teams and monthly Parish Brunch after the Healing Mass. All are welcome!

Next 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 [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:

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](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandiocese.org).

On Sunday, March 15, the parish will once again host two blood buses. I encourage all parishioners who are able to please sign up and give blood. As Christians, we serve and cherish life. Giving blood is a part of this mission. [You can sign up here.](#)

On Sunday, March 15, the parish will host its annual Personal Hygiene Items Drive. All parishioners are asked to bring one or more of these items with them to Mass: kid-size toothbrush, kid-size toothpaste, and bars of Dove soap. These items will go to our community partners and will be distributed to people and families right here in Lancaster County. Parishioners can drop off the items in the pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be there to assist you.

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 **\$340,000!** In addition, we are still anticipating a couple of large gifts. 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.

LAST CALL! I'm 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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