

**March 8, 2026**

*From Father Kirby...*

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Our Lenten journey continues. We have been called to the spiritual desert to ask for the graces of purification and conversion. We seek to be with the Lord Jesus and to serve him as faithful disciples.

We welcome Jacob Shinas to the parish staff as our new Communications Coordinator. Jacob is a young member of our parish who is currently pursuing a degree in business administration. Jacob will assist us with our electronic bulletin, social media, website, and other avenues of communication. *Welcome, Jacob!*

This Sunday, March 8, we're celebrating Mental Health Awareness Sunday. The homily 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!

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, 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.

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

This Tuesday, March 10, our daily Mass will be at 5:15 PM (and not at Noon). I'll be away for diocesan meetings in the morning and afternoon but will be back in time to offer the Mass and evening Confessions.

This Tuesday, March 10, we will only have Confessions in the evening.

This Wednesday, March 11, we have our monthly Eucharistic Kids! program at 10:30 AM. All stay-home parents and young children are invited to come for Adoration and in the church and playtime in the Parish Hall.

This Friday, March 13, at 5:30 PM, we have one of our extra Masses for Lent. All are welcome!

The parish is very happy to host the annual [Catholic Men's Conference of the Carolinas](#) this coming 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@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestandioocese.org).

Next 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.](#)

Also, next 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 Dove bars of 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.

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:

I'm looking at the possibility of creating a Mental Health Committee of our parish Pastoral Council. I'm looking for nurses, social workers, and professional counselors who might be interested in serving on this committee. If you're in these professions and are interested, please reach out to me directly at:

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

God is good, Team Grace! This past week, we received a \$160,000 donation toward Mary's Grotto! And so, we now have **\$500,000!** We have now exceeded our goal of \$485,000. Thanks be to God! As we move forward, however, I ask for your continued support of our "Capital Projects." I would like for us to have additional funds in case we exceed the original cost projections. If we don't use the collected funds, we can roll the funds over to some of our other capital projects.

As a reminder, Phase Two of Mary's Grotto 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.

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 look very 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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