

March 22, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This Sunday is Passiontide, which is the second part of Lent. Passiontide takes us deeper into the desert with the Lord Jesus. Mother Church observes this somber time by veiling her statues and silencing her bells. As disciples, we are called to double down our efforts and prepare well for the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday! We will bless and distribute palms at all the Masses. All parishioners, however, are encouraged to come to the 11:00 AM Mass, which is our principal Mass for Palm Sunday. The 11:00 AM Mass will begin with the Solemn Procession of Palms. *Parishioners are asked to meet down by the flags at the entrance of our campus around 10:45 AM.*

After our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have our annual Spring Festival. There will be food, desserts, and a petting zoo for everyone! All are welcome!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Our Pastoral Associate, MJ Wallace, recently posted a list of all our parish ministries on our website. [Please take a look](#) and get involved!

This Monday, March 23, our Noon Mass will be outdoors. It looks like we'll have some beautiful weather and can offer the Mass at the Hoy Angels Columbarium. Parishioners are reminded to bring a chair or blanket with them.

This Tuesday evening, March 24, at 7:00 PM, we have a session of our SOAP Work Group. All parishioners are invited to come and label soap that will be placed in areas frequented by people stuck in human trafficking.

This Wednesday, March 25, our Wednesday formation nights conclude and go on hiatus until the Fall.

This Thursday, March 26, I'll be in Charleston for diocesan meetings. We will not have morning Confessions, but we will still have Morning Prayer (Lauds) at 10:00 AM, our morning Adoration time from 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM, and the holy Rosary at 11:30 AM. We will have a guest priest for our Noon Mass. We welcome Father Peter Rusciolelli back to the parish! *Welcome, Father Rusciolelli!*

This coming Saturday, March 28, at 8:30 AM, we have our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility. All parishioners are invited to come and join in our peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

After Palm Sunday, we enter Holy Week, the most sacred time of our Faith. As we enter Holy Week, please note that our parish's liturgy schedule will have several changes.

Monday, March 30: The parish schedule remains the same. Since we are in Holy Week, our Noon Mass will be indoors. I'll be away at county meetings and so Father Nicholas Kramer will be offering the Mass and hearing Confessions in the afternoon. *Welcome back, Father Kramer!* We will still have Vespers, along with Adoration and Confessions, in the evening.

Tuesday, March 31: There is no public Mass at the parish. I'll be attending the Chrism Mass in Charleston with our Bishop. The parish schedule remains the same, except the Saint Peregrine Novena will be at 12 Noon and our afternoon Adoration is from 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM. There will be no morning or afternoon Confessions. The parish campus will close at 5:00 PM. All evening activities are suspended.

Spy Wednesday, April 1: The parish schedule remains the same, except the parish campus and church will close at 5:00 PM. All evening activities are suspended.

Holy Thursday, April 2: The parish campus and church will be open for personal prayer from 9:30 AM – 11:55 PM. There is no Noon Mass. All public devotionals and events are suspended. The Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7:00 PM. Adoration and Confessions will be available after Mass until 11:55 PM.

Good Friday, April 3: All regular activities are suspended. The parish campus and church are open for personal prayer from 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM. Confessions are from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM. The Solemn Stations of the Cross are at 12 Noon. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is at 3:00 PM. Confessions are heard again from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM.

Holy Saturday, April 4: All regular activities are suspended. The parish campus is not open to the public until 8:00 PM. The Great Easter Vigil is at 8:30 PM. After the Mass, we have our annual Resurrection Party. All are welcome!

Easter Sunday, April 5: The parish will have its regular Sunday Mass schedule: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM.

Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday, April 6-7: The parish campus and church are closed. There is no public Mass. All activities are suspended.

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:

God is good, Team Grace! We have received additional large gifts, and so we now have **\$600,000** for Phase II of Mary's Grotto. We have exceeded our goal of \$485,000. 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 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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