

**April 5, 2026**

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

*Happy Easter, Team Grace! The Lord is Risen! He is truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!! The Lord is Risen! He has conquered death and restored us to life! Alleluia! Rejoice! Happy Easter!!*

During the Easter Season, we pray the [Regina Caeli](#) (instead of the Angelus) in honor of the Lord's glorious Resurrection.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Monday and Tuesday, April 6-7, the parish campus and church are closed in honor of the Lord's Resurrection. Our parish staff gets some well-deserved days of rest. There is no public Mass. All activities are suspended (including our Monday evening Alcoholics Anonymous). *Happy Easter!*

This Wednesday, April 8, at 10:30 AM we have our monthly gathering of the Eucharistic Kids! All small children and stay-home parents are invited to come for Adoration in the church and then some playtime in the Parish Hall.

Next Sunday, April 12, is Divine Mercy Sunday. We'll have our annual Mercy Service from 3:00 PM- 4:30 PM. Adoration and Confessions begin at 3:00 PM. During Adoration, we'll have readings from Saint Faustina's Diary, a homily on mercy, and the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Mercy Service ends at 4:30 PM with Benediction. After Benediction, the faithful will have the opportunity to venerate our first-class relic of Saint Faustina. 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:

Our weekly Stations of the Cross resume on Monday evening, April 13, at 7:00 PM. Whatever you might be carrying in life, the Lord wants to be with you. Come to the Stations and let him walk with you.

On Tuesday, April 14, members of our Prison Team will be distributing cheeseburgers to the inmates of Kershaw Correctional Institution. This is an annual act of mercy by our parish to those who are incarcerated. Thank you to our prison team! Please remember the inmates in your prayers.

Starting Tuesday afternoon, April 14, we'll have weekly Adoration on Tuesdays from 12:45 PM – 3:15 PM. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed on Tuesdays at 3:00 PM. All are invited to come and ask for God's mercy.

On Tuesday evening, April 14, at 7:00 PM, we have our next session of the 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.

The next session of our monthly Gianna Caregiver Support Group is Thursday, April 16, at 10:30 AM. If you provide for the direct care or manage the care of an adult loved one, this group is for you!

In honor of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Blessed Sacrament is being carried in pilgrimage throughout our nation this summer. The pilgrimage will conclude in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was signed. [Here's a great video](#) explaining the pilgrimage.

As a spiritual participation, I'd like to encourage you to subscribe to the [Manna](#) podcast. The podcast gives teachings and devotional insights on our Lord's True Presence in the Eucharist. [Find out more information here](#). In addition, I'd like to also recommend my own podcast with EWTN, [The Mass in Slow Motion](#).

The pilgrimage covers our nation. And so, it is a blessing to announce that our parish has been selected as one of the stops for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage! And so, on Saturday, May 30, we'll welcome the traveling Blessed Sacrament and have Mass and an indoor Eucharistic Procession. The Mass and Procession will be followed by lunch and fellowship.

We are expecting about 800 people for May 30! As such, Team Grace, it is essential that you register for the event. [Please register here](#). Please arrange to carpool as best you can.

Thanks be to God! 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.

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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