

April 12, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Easter, Team Grace! The Lord is Risen! Alleluia! He is truly Risen! The Easter Season is fifty days long! And so, we are called to continue our celebration of the Risen Christ's glorious presence among us! And so, as believers, we still say, Happy Easter!!

This 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!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Sunday at all our Masses, we are highlighting the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.

In honor of our nation's 250th 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! 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.

Our weekly Stations of the Cross resume this 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.

This 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 this 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.

This 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 this coming 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!

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 next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is Saturday, April 25, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are called to come and join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC. All are welcome!

Our next Fellowship Sunday is April 26 around 12:15 PM. All parishioners are invited to come for donuts and fellowship.

On Sunday, May 3, around 12:15 PM, we'll have a Fellowship and cake for my 51st birthday. Didn't I just turn 50?! Time is flying, Team Grace! All are welcome to come for cake and fellowship!

On Monday, May 4, I'll be in the city of Lancaster for county meetings. And so, our daily Mass that day will be at 5:15 PM (and not 12 Noon). There are no afternoon Confessions. Our weekly Prayers for the Faithful Departed will be at Noon, and our afternoon Adoration will start early around 12:15 PM. Confessions will be heard in the evening from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Our next Saint Paula Dinner for Widows will be Tuesday, May 5, at 5:00 PM. All widows of the parish are invited to come for fellowship and a good meal. Be sure to bring your copy of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Our annual May Procession and Crowning will be held after our 11:00 AM Mass on Mother's Day, May 10. All are invited to come and honor Our Lady!

Thanks be to God! We are now at **\$600,000** for Phase II of Mary's Grotto. Additional large gifts have come in, and I can update our numbers next week. 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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