

April 19, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Easter, Team Grace! The glory of Easter continues to shine! The Lord is Risen! He is truly Risen! Alleluia!

This Sunday afternoon, our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir will visit some of our local care facilities and share their gift of song with the residents. We thank them for their witness!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

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 spans 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 at 10:30 AM. 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.

Every Monday morning at 11:00 AM we have the holy Rosary and Prayers for the Faithful Departed at our Holy Angels Columbarium. All are welcome!

Every Wednesday after our Noon Mass (around 12:45 PM), we have the Novena to Saint Dymphna for all those who are struggling with emotional and mental challenges. All are welcome!

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this coming 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 next Sunday, April 26, around 12:15 PM. All parishioners are invited to come for donuts and fellowship.

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:

We welcome Bishop Jacques to the Rock Hill Deanery on April 23-26. The Bishop's visit this time *does not* include a stop at our parish. Please pray for the Bishop and his time in our deanery.

On Tuesday, April 28, I'll be in Charleston for diocesan meeting. Father Nicholas Kramer will be here for Mass and afternoon Confessions. Welcome, Father Kramer! *Please note* there will be no morning or evening Confessions. Confessions will only be heard in the afternoon following Mass.

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!

On Friday - Saturday, May 15-16, the parish is honored to host two Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia. The Sisters will spend the weekend with us. Here are the public events with the Sisters:

- Saturday, May 16, 10:00 AM, daily Mass.
- Saturday, May 16, 11:00 AM, Rosary with the Dominican Sisters at Mary's Grotto.
- Saturday, May 16, 4:00 PM, Solemn Vespers and Fellowship with the Sisters.

Team Grace! We are now at **\$700,000** for Phase II of Mary's Grotto! Thanks be to God! 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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