

April 26, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Easter, Team Grace! The Lord is Risen, he is truly Risen! Alleluia! Let us rejoice and give thanks! The Easter Season is about the joy won for us in Jesus Christ! He is Risen! Rejoice!

For this weekend, we're going to pause our homily series on the Book of Revelation. Instead, I've asked Deacon Doc to preach and address some matters happening in his own life. *Thank you, Deacon Doc!*

Team Grace, after a long application process, I am very happy to announce that our parish now has two young men who have been accepted by the Bishop and will be heading to the seminary this Fall! *Congratulations to Noah Ruscioelli and Zach Savage!*

In the coming weeks, I'll post more about our parish seminarians.

This weekend, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday-Saturday, May 1-2. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord Jesus and our parish family.

In the narthex this weekend, we are distributing free copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Everyone is invited to take a copy for their personal study. Thank you to the donors who made this distribution possible!

This Sunday, after our 11:00 AM Mass, we have our monthly fellowship. Everyone is invited to come for donuts and fellowship!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

| |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>As a reminder, on Saturday, May 30, we'll welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to our parish and have Mass and an indoor Eucharistic Procession starting at 10:30 AM. The Mass and Procession will be followed by lunch and fellowship. We are expecting about 800 people and so it is essential that you register for the event. Please register here. Please arrange to carpool as best you can.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

This Tuesday, April 28, I'll be in Charleston for diocesan meetings. 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 Tuesday evening, April 28, 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 those stuck in human trafficking.

This Friday, May 1, at 7:00 PM, we have our First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. Please note the Mass is at 7:00 PM. The holy Rosary is prayed before the Mass at 6:30 PM. Confessions are heard after the Mass until Midnight. Adoration begins after the Mass and continues through the night until 10:20 AM on Saturday.

This Saturday morning, May 2, is First Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our First Saturday observances include: Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM; the holy Rosary at 10:30 AM; the Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM; and our intercessory prayer teams and monthly Parish Brunch after the Healing Mass. All are welcome!

Next Sunday after all our Masses, I'll have a book in the narthex for anyone to write prayer intentions for me to carry to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Next 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!

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:

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. The procession will be from the church to the statue at the entrance of our campus. Please note that no vehicles on that side of our campus will be able to move during the procession. After the procession and crowning, we'll have an ice cream fellowship by the flags. *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.

On Sunday, May 17, our parish will host two blood buses. We have been approached to host these buses since our area is suffering from an urgent need for blood. As Christians, we cherish and serve life. I ask that everyone who is able, to please sign up and give blood. Prior sign-ups are required. [Please sign up here.](#)

Early in the morning on Sunday, May 17, I leave for my pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Father David Rivera of the Diocese of Camden, NJ, will offer our Sunday morning Masses while I'm away. *Welcome back, Father Rivera!*

Father Bob Morey, a retired priest of our diocese, will cover our weekday Masses and afternoon Confessions from Monday-Thursday, May 18-21. Please note that Confessions will only be heard in the afternoon (after our daily Mass). There will be no morning or evening Confessions this week. In addition, our parish church and campus will close this week at 5:00 PM. All evening events are suspended.

Team Grace! We are now at **\$710,000** for Phase II of Mary's Grotto! As we move forward, 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 of Mary's Grotto. If we don't use the collected funds, we'll 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

Very Rev. Jeffrey F. Kirby, STD, VF
Pastor/Dean of Rock Hill Deanery
www.frkirby.com