

May 10, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Easter, Team Grace! As Christians, we continue to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus! He is Risen! All the brokenness and sin of our fallen world have been vanquished. We are free! Alleluia!

We wish all our mothers and maternal figures a very *Happy Mother's Day!* Thank you for the love and selfless service you give to your children and families. We love you!

Our annual May Procession and Crowning is this Sunday, May 10, after our 11:00 AM Mass. 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!*

This year, our Crown Committee nominated Maureen Johnson to crown Our Lady. Maureen is a woman of deep faith and is one of our long-serving sacristans. Thank you, Maureen! *Congratulations!!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As we near the end of an academic year, and many begin their summer travels, I want to remind everyone of our grave obligation to attend Sunday Mass. As you travel, I recommend using one of the many digital services that indicate local Mass times, such as [Catholic Mass Times](#). *As you travel, be sure to make it to Sunday Mass!*

This Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 PM, we have a session of our SOAP Work Group. All parishioners are invited to come and label soap and make-up containers that will be placed in areas frequented by those enslaved in human trafficking.

This Wednesday, May 13, at 10:30 AM, we have our monthly gathering of the Eucharistic Kids! All stay-home parents and their children are invited to come for Adoration in the church and then playtime in the Parish Hall.

This Thursday, May 14, I'll be in Chester for deanery meetings. Due to those meetings, our daily Mass will be at 9:15 AM (and not Noon). There will be no morning Confessions. Morning Prayer (Lauds) is still at 10:00 AM, followed by Adoration, and then the holy Rosary at 11:00 AM. The Saint Josephine Bakhita Novena Prayers will be offered at Noon. There is no Fellowship.

This 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.

Next 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.](#)

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:

Early in the morning next Sunday, May 17, I leave for my pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. 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, for this week, our parish campus will close at 5:00 PM. All evening events are suspended (this includes our Monday evening Alcoholics Anonymous).

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.

I'm happy to announce that our friends at EWTN will be airing our Mass on May 30 on its network. It will run live on EWTN's television channel.

Team Grace, our nation is receiving a great birthday gift from the Holy Spirit! In the coming year, as we celebrate our 250th birthday as a nation, Venerable Fulton Sheen will be beatified on American soil in late September! Fulton Sheen was (and is) a noted preacher and teacher of our Faith. We need his message today!

Our Bishop has asked our parish to take the lead and organize the diocesan pilgrimage to Saint Louis for the Beatification Mass! In response to this summons, we have [this pilgrimage](#) planned. Everyone is invited! I hope many of you can come on the pilgrimage!

Grotto Update: We have been evaluating several contractors. The list started with over 20 and moved to about 8. We are now seriously looking at two contractors. Once our contractor is selected, they will go through the diocesan approval process. Wesley Dry, our Director of Buildings and Grounds, is heading up this effort. He has a committee of parishioners who are skilled in different areas of construction assisting him. It's our hope to have a contractor selected by July and then begin the diocesan process as soon as possible. More updates will follow.

We are now at **\$710,000** for Phase II. 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 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, 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